

THE ADVENTURES OF TOTO



Chapter-2

MOMENTS

class - ix

- Ruskin Bond

"That I have been able to write for so long. I started at the age of 17 or 18 and I am still writing. If I were not a professional writer who was getting published I would still write."



Ruskin Bond (born 19 May 1934) is an Indian author of British descent. He lives in Landour, Mussoorie, India. The Indian Council for Child Education has recognised his role in the growth of children's literature in India. He was awarded the **Sahitya Academy Award** in 1992 for *Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra*, his novel in English. He was awarded the **Padma Shri** in 1999 and the **Padma Bhushan** in 2014.

"Race did not make me one. Religion did not make me one. But history did. And in the long run, it's history that counts."



- Always fussed when grandfather bought home animals
- She saved Toto from being boiled
- Wanted to send away Toto for they could not afford frequent loss of dishes, clothes, curtains and wall paper.

CHARACTERS



I just narrated the story as I saw it.

THE NARRATOR
(YOUNG RUSKIN BOND)



TOTO

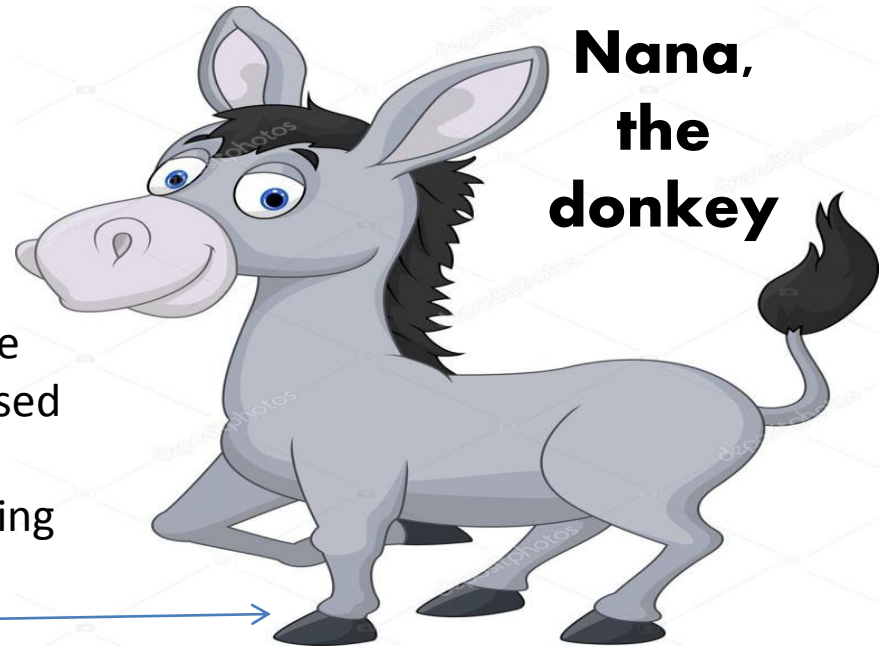


- Bought Toto from a *tonga* driver for Rs 5.
- He found Toto pretty
- Put him in a cupboard to hide from grandmother.
- Took Toto to Saharanpur with him in a black canvas kit bag
- Shifted him to the stable with Nana
- Returned Toto to the tonga driver for Rs 3.



Toto

Nana, the donkey was Toto's companion in the stable. Toto always teased Nana. The grandfather once caught Toto nibbling Nana's ear.



**Nana,
the
donkey**

Toto was shifted to the servant's quarter where all the animals lived sociably

Grandfather's private Zoo



COMPREHENDING THROUGH QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q1. Where did Toto come from?

A1. The grandfather had bought Toto from a *tonga* driver for the sum of five rupees.

Q2. Why did the grandfather buy Toto?

A2. Grandfather wanted to add Toto to his private zoo.

Q3. Describe Toto.

A3. Toto was a pretty monkey. His bright eyes sparkled with mischief beneath deep set eyebrows, and his teeth, which were a pearly white, were very often displayed in a smile that frightened the life out of elderly Anglo-Indian ladies. But his hands looked dried up as though they had been pickled in the sun for many years. Yet his fingers were quick and wicked; and his tail, while adding to his good looks also served as a third hand. He could use it to hang from a branch; and it was capable of scooping up any delicacy that might be out of the reach of his hands.

Q4. What was Toto's first abode?

A4. Grandfather hit Toto in a little closet opening into the narrator's bedroom wall, where he was securely tied to a peg fastened into the wall.

Q5. What did Toto do to his first abode?

A5. Toto had scratched the wall paper out of the wall and exposed it naked as brick and plaster. The peg in the wall had been wrenched out and the narrator's school blazer was torn into shreds.

Q6. Why did the grandfather go to Saharanpur?

A6. The grandfather had to go to Saharanpur to collect his pension.

Q7. How did the grandfather take Toto along?

A7. A big black canvas kit bag was provided for Toto. With straw at the bottom Toto was fixed to be carried in the bag.

Q8. Who was Nana? What relationship did Nana and Toto share?

A8. Nana was the grandfather's pet donkey. Toto enjoyed teasing Nana and nibbled his ear.

Q9. Describe Toto's experience of the bath.

A9. Toto enjoyed a warm water bath in winters. When the grandmother gave him a large bowl of warm water, he would cunningly test the water temperature and then gradually step into the bath. Once comfortable, he would take the soap in his hands or feet and rub all over. When the water became cold, he would get out and run as quickly as he could to the kitchen fire in order to dry himself.

Q 10. How did Toto manage to boil himself?

A 10. A large kitchen kettle was left on fire to boil water for tea and Toto found it too inviting for a bath. He removed the lid of the kettle and finding it just warm enough for a bath, he got into the kettle. With his head sticking out of the kettle, he started enjoying the warm water. As the water got hotter, he tried to jump out of the kettle but the cold weather outside pushed him back in. Luckily, the grandmother saw him jumping and picked him half boiled out of the kettle.

Q11. How did Toto treat the rice dish?

A 11. Toto ceased the big dish of *pulao* kept for lunch and started relishing it. When the grandmother shouted at him, he threw a plate at the grandmother. When one of the narrator's aunt tried to save the rice, Toto threw a glass of water in her face. Ultimately, Toto took the dish away in the jackfruit tree and broke it into a hundred pieces after finishing every grain of rice.

THE END