

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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Session: 2025-2026- Notes

Class: X

Subject: English

Topic: Ch- Mrs. Packletide's Tiger

Q1. Answer the following questions briefly:

Q1. What made Mrs Packletide decide to give a party in Loona Bimberton's honour? What did she intend to give Loona on her birthday?

Ans. All movements and motives of Mrs. Packletide were largely governed by her dislike of Loona Bimberton. She threw a party in her favour to show her that it was Mrs Packletide who had caught the limelight and that Mrs Bimberton's glory had been overshadowed. To insult her more, she had planned to send Loona Bimberton, a tiger-claw brooch on her next birthday.

Q2. Who was Miss Mebbin? Was she really devoted to Mrs Packletide? How did she behave during the tiger shooting?

Ans. Miss Louisa Mebbin was Mrs Packletide's paid companion who escorted her for the shooting. No, she was not at all devoted to her. Rather, her actions at the platform revealed that she was money-minded and a manipulative woman. She felt that she must in no case offer her services more than the amount she had been paid for. On the other hand, she dissuaded Mrs Packletide saying that she ought not to have paid such a heavy amount for the old tiger. Shrewd as she was, she further advised Mrs Packletide that if the beast did not touch the goat, she must not pay for the shooting.

Q3. Mrs Packletide was a good shot. Discuss.

Ans. Mrs Packletide was a good shot definitely. It was flashed out that she killed two animals with one bullet instantly. The goat was mortally wounded, whereas the tiger, the old beast died of heart failure. The noise was good enough to invite the local crowd, who shouted throughout the village to spread the news that memsahib had killed the tiger.

Q4. Briefly comment on the behaviour of the villagers throughout the story.

Ans. The villagers first searched for an old tiger that would involve less risk for Mrs Packletide. Children were posted night and day on the outskirts of the local jungle, so that the beast did not roam into fresh hunting grounds. Added to that, cheap goats were left about in the open to keep the tiger's appetite satisfied. Mothers carrying their babies through the jungle slowed down their singing in case the tiger might wake up. As soon as the natives of the village heard the loud noise of the rifle, they reached the spot where the two animals were lying dead. They swarmed around the scene and shouted throughout the village spreading the news of the tiger killed by the memsahib.

Q5. "The incidental expenses are so heavy," she confides to inquiring friends. Who is the speaker? What is she referring to here?

Ans. Mrs Packletide is the speaker. Here she is referring to those expenses which she has to bear in order to maintain her fame as tiger killer. Miss Mebbin blackmailed her to get the money required to buy a cottage.



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Q6. How did Miss Mebbin exploit Mrs Packletide?

Ans. Miss Mebbin won the faith of Mrs Packletide by adopting a protective elder-sister attitude towards money. After becoming the eyewitness of the fact of the shooting, she blackmailed Mrs Packletide for buying a cottage for her if she wanted her not to disclose the fact. Mrs Packletide had to buy the cottage to keep Miss Mebbin mum.

Q7. Who was Loona Bimberton? What daring feat had she achieved that led to Mrs. Packletide disliking her?

Ans. Loona Bimberton was Mrs. Packletide's arch rival. Both the women nursed a mutual feeling of dislike towards each other. Loona had performed a daring feat by flying eleven miles in an aeroplane piloted by an Algerian aviator. The fame and glory that followed her, intensified Mrs. Packletide's hatred and jealousy towards Loona.

QII. Answer the following questions in detail :

Q1. Do you think the tiger shooting organized by the villagers was a serious affair? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans. Tiger shooting organized by the villagers was indeed a serious affair. The natives of the village were offered a thousand rupees for the purpose. They had to search a tiger that could be killed without much risk or exertion. The prospect of earning the thousand rupees had stimulated the sporting and commercial instincts of the villagers. Children were posted night and day on the outskirts of the local jungle so that the beast doesn't roam into the fresh hunting grounds. Added to that, cheap goats were left about in the open to keep the tiger's appetite satisfied. Mothers carrying their babies through the jungle slowed down their singing in case the tiger might wake up. In spite of all these preparations, the natives were also worried that the old tiger must not die before the date of Memsahib's shoot.

Q2. A person who is vain is full of self importance and can only think of himself/ herself and can go to great lengths to prove his/her superiority. Do you think Mrs Packletide is vain? Give reasons in support of your answer.

Ans. There is no doubt in our observation of Mrs Packletide that she is vain. She holds too high an opinion of herself and considers herself as the one born to be with an edge over others. Her vainglorious nature pushes her to think of shooting a tiger. Had she been shooting a tiger to showcase her bravery and courage, the reader would have been filled with respect for her. But all her movements and motives are largely governed by her dislike of her arch rival Loona Bimberton. Mrs Packletide is rich enough to gain importance and get the the arrangements according to her designs. She is so lost in her glory that she sends a tiger-claw brooch as a gift to Mrs Bimberton. Not only this she arranges a party in honour of Loona Bimberton, her enemy, which shows that she can go to any limit to prove her superiority. It's because of her foolish decisions that Miss Mebbin drains her out well finally. This way Mrs Packletide falls into the trap laid down by none other but her own vain plans.

Q3. Years later Mrs Packletide writes her autobiography. As Mrs Packletide, write about the tiger episode with the help of the clues given below.

jealous of the applause Loona was getting-thought of a tiger hunt-all arranged-Louisa Mebbin accompanied; turned out to be blackmailer-huge price to pay to outdo a rival

Ans. There are nostalgic moments in everyone's life. More daunting however, are the haunting



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memories of the bitter experiences. I am ridden with guilt when I recall my tryst with the old tiger. Sadly, name, fame and glory always had a precedence in my life, driving me to the worst limits of vanity. Loona Bimberton was a strong competitor. I was uneasy with the public acclaim she had acquired with her exceptional flying feat. I was livid. I convinced myself that I had to do something more challenging if I have to unseat her. What better way than big-game hunting! In connivance with some Indian villagers, the preparations for executing the plan of killing an old tiger, was effected with perfection. The remuneration fixed was a thousand rupees. My paid companion Louisa accompanied me.

On the 'D' day, the scene was set. A bleating goat, and the old tiger. I fired the shot. The animal died. Ironically it was the bait that succumbed to my bullet. The prey, passed away due to its old age. However, the issue remained a closely guarded secret for a while. The passive villagers were content with the money I had given them. Besides, they were relieved that the death of the tiger had brought calm into their otherwise troubled lives. Their silence was assured. But Miss Louisa was not as timid as she appeared to be. She was determined to take advantage of my vainglorious nature. I had to buy her a weekend cottage in exchange for her silence.

I had to incur a lot of financial loss to satisfy my ridiculous urge to remain on top of the social ladder.

Q4. Before targeting anyone, one must not forget that even a biter can be bitten." Explain with the reference to the story Mrs Packletide's Tiger. What values do you learn from the story?

Ans. It is Mrs Packletide's vanity that had made her enact the tiger hunting drama. Her urge to outshine Loona Bimberton was nothing but an attempt to satisfy this vanity. Her posing for the photographs and throwing on luncheon party with the tiger skin prominently spread in the drawing room reflects this vain lady's efforts to prove her superiority and become a celebrity. Mrs Packletide targetted Mrs. Loona Bimberton but she herself was targetted by Miss Mebbin. The manipulative Miss Mebbin started blackmailing Mrs Packletide. To keep her mouth shut and not to reveal that she (Mrs Packletide) had hunted a lamb and not a tiger, she had to pay an exorbitant price to Miss Mebbin. Thus, the people who consider themselves smart enough to outshine others often get outsmarted themselves. We should try to get name and fame by our good deeds not by insulting and having rivalry to others. The manipulative actions can be backfired and recoiled on ourselves.

