

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

9th Avenue, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi – 110092

Session: 2024-2025 – Notes

Class: X

Subject: English

Topic: Mijbil – The Otter

Answer the following questions:

Q1. Why does he go to Basra? How long does he wait there, and why?

Ans. He went to Basra, to the Consulate-General, to collect and answer his mail from Europe. He had had to wait there for five days. To start with, his mail didn't reach on time. Then, he tried to make a telephone call. This incident is of those days when one had to book an international call 24 hours in advance. The telephone line was not working properly on the first day. Next day, it was some public holiday, so it was not working again. Finally, after a torturous wait of five days, his mail arrived.

Q2. How was Mij to be transported to England?

Ans. Maxwell booked a flight to Paris and from there, he would go on to London. The airline insisted that Mij should be packed in a box (not more than eighteen inches square) that was to be placed on the floor, near his feet.

Q3. Why does Maxwell say the air-hostess was "the very queen of her kind"?

Ans. Maxwell said that the air-hostess was "the very queen of her kind" because she was extremely kind and helpful. He took her into his confidence about the incident with the box. She suggested that he might prefer to have his pet on his knee. Hearing this, he developed a profound admiration for her, for she understood the pain of both the otter and its owner.

Q4. What would you say was the greatest obstacle faced by the narrator in transporting Mijbil to Camusfearna?

Ans. The greatest obstacle faced by the narrator was packing the otter in a box of 18 inches, since the airline did not allow animals to fly. Mij was exhausted and was covered with blood in the box. Since Maxwell was getting late to board the flight, he had to carry him in the same condition

Q5. Describe the relationship between the otter and Maxwell in your own words.

Ans. Maxwell and the otter Mijbil shared a lovely relationship. Maxwell treated Mij like his own son. He took very good care of him. He gave him many toys including marbles, rubber balls, rubber fruits and a terrapin shell to play with. He took him to the bathtub to play in the water knowing the fascination of otters with water. He noticed his habits and traits. Mijbil hesitated on the first day, but then became very friendly. Maxwell encouraged Mijbil to do whatever he liked to do. He took him out for exercise every day. Before their flight to Paris, when Maxwell saw blood on the box in which Mij was packed, he was horrified. When Mij came out of the box, he jumped all over, but then he came back and sat on Maxwell's knees quietly.



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