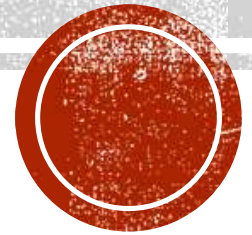


A TIGER IN THE HOUSE

Class -7





Ruskin Bond (born 19, May 1934) is an Indian author. His first novel, *The Room on the Roof*, published in 1956, received the [John Llewellyn Rhys Prize](#). Bond has authored more than 500 short stories, essays, and novels which includes 69 books for children. He was awarded the [Sahitya Akademi Award](#) in 1992 for [Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra](#). He was awarded the [Padma Shri](#) in 1999 and [Padma Bhushan](#) in 2014.



strolling: walking in a relaxed and leisure way

intricate: detailed and tangled

distinction: excellence that sets someone or something apart from others

bagged: won

tempting: delicious, something that is attractive

companions: someone who gives you company

bold: daring, someone who can do dangerous things

mongrel: a dog of no definable type or breed

dart: move or run somewhere suddenly or rapidly

spring: move or jump suddenly or rapidly upwards or forwards

absurd: ridiculous, illogical

dash: run

retreat: go back

mumbled: say in a low voice

civilise: polite and well-mannered

interned: kept

Crouched: to lowering the knees to prevent being seen

relish: great enjoyment

amusement: something that is entertaining or amusing

stalk: follow someone stealthily

crafty: clever

crouch: adopt a position where the knees are bent and the upper body is brought forward and down, typically in order to avoid detection or to defend oneself

creep: crawl

delight: happiness

pretending: acting

retriever: a breed of dog (trained to retrieve game in hunting)

give us a wide berth: keep a safe distance from us

recline: lean or lie back in a relaxed position with the back supported

dignity: pride, being proud

snarl: growling while showing teeth

stroke: move one's hand to put pressure gently on someone

smacked: hit lightly

stammer: speak with sudden involuntary pauses and a tendency to repeat the initial letters of words mostly due to nervousness or an inability to express oneself feelings properly.



Summary and Explanation:

The story revolves around **Timothy**, a tiger cub found by the narrator's grandfather in the jungle and brought home to live as part of the family. The tiger, initially playful and affectionate, was raised with love and care. The grandfather became particularly attached to Timothy, taking care of his diet, health, and behavior.

As Timothy grew older, his wild instincts began to surface. He became less friendly, even showing signs of aggression. Recognizing this, the grandfather decided it was best for Timothy to be moved to a zoo where he could live safely and receive proper care.

After six months, the grandfather visited Timothy at the zoo. He approached a tiger in a cage, mistaking him for Timothy, and shared an affectionate moment. However, the zoo authorities later informed him that Timothy had died months ago. The tiger he had approached was a different one altogether, yet it had responded to his kind behavior.

Key Themes:

1. Human-Animal Bond: The story showcases the deep connection between humans and animals, emphasizing the care and responsibility humans should have toward wildlife.

2. Wild vs. Domestic Nature: It highlights how wild animals, even when tamed, retain their natural instincts.

3. Compassion and Understanding: The grandfather's kindness toward animals underlines the importance of treating creatures with respect and love.

Moral:

The story teaches students about empathy and the responsibility humans have toward nature and animals. It also shows how kindness and affection can create bonds even between humans and wild creatures.



Theme of Human-Animal Connection

At its core, the story explores the bond between humans and animals, demonstrating how love and care can foster a connection even with wild creatures. The grandfather's affection for Timothy highlights the innate kindness humans are capable of showing toward animals. This relationship, however, is contrasted by the limitations of domestication, as Timothy's wild instincts eventually resurface, underscoring the natural order of wildlife.

Conflict Between Nature and Civilization

The narrative subtly presents the tension between nature and human civilization. While Timothy is loved and cared for in a domestic setting, he belongs to the wild. The decision to transfer him to the zoo reflects humanity's attempts to reconcile this conflict but also raises ethical questions about captivity. Bond prompts readers to think about whether zoos truly serve the well-being of animals or merely satisfy human curiosity.

Irony and Symbolism

The story is laced with situational irony, most notably in the climax where the grandfather mistakenly bonds with a tiger he believes to be Timothy. This twist emphasizes the universal nature of kindness, as even a different tiger responds positively to the grandfather's affection. Symbolically, the tiger represents the unpredictable and untamable aspects of nature, reminding readers that wild animals, despite their temporary domestication, are governed by instincts.

Conclusion

A Tiger in the House is not just a tale about a pet tiger; it is a thoughtful exploration of coexistence, the natural instincts of animals, and the ethics of human interference in nature. Ruskin Bond masterfully weaves humor, irony, and warmth into a story that entertains while imparting deeper lessons. It encourages readers to approach wildlife with respect, understanding, and compassion.

