

Animals, Birds, and Dr. Dolittle

About the Author: Hugh Lofting

Hugh Lofting (1886–1947) was a British author and civil engineer. He is best known for creating the famous fictional character Doctor Dolittle, a doctor who can communicate with animals.

During World War I, he wrote illustrated letters to his children featuring Doctor Dolittle, which later became a popular series of children's books. His stories promote kindness, compassion, imagination, and respect for animals.

Theme of the Story

1. Love and compassion for animals.
2. The importance of understanding and communication.
3. Every living being deserves care and respect.
4. Learning from others and keeping an open mind.
5. True knowledge comes from listening carefully and showing empathy.

Character List

1. **Doctor John Dolittle** – A kind, intelligent doctor who learns animal languages and becomes a renowned animal doctor.
2. **Polynesia** – A wise and talkative parrot who teaches Doctor Dolittle the language of birds and animals.
3. **The Cat's-food-Man** – Suggests that Doctor Dolittle should become an animal doctor because of his deep understanding of animals.
4. **Jip** – Doctor Dolittle's dog, whose body language helps the doctor learn that animals communicate in many ways.
5. **The Plough Horse** – A horse suffering from poor eyesight who receives green spectacles from Doctor Dolittle and praises his skill.

Title Justification

The title "Animals, Birds, and Dr. Dolittle" is perfectly suitable because the story revolves around Doctor

Dolittle's unique relationship with animals and birds. Polynesia, the parrot, teaches him the language of animals, enabling him to understand their problems and treat them effectively. As a result, he becomes a famous animal doctor loved by creatures from all over the world. Thus, the title accurately reflects the three central elements of the story—animals, birds, and Doctor Dolittle.

Message (Meaning) of the Story

1. Kindness and empathy can transform lives.
2. Animals have feelings and deserve understanding and care.
3. Good communication and careful listening help solve problems.
4. Dedication, knowledge, and compassion lead to true success and respect.

Word-Meanings

1. Stomach-ache- Pain in the stomach
2. Veterinarian (Vet)- A doctor who treats animals

3. Porridge- Soft food made by boiling oats or grains
4. Gracious- Kind and polite
5. Rush- To move quickly
6. Observe- To watch carefully
7. Twitch- To move suddenly with small quick movements
8. Plough- To prepare land for farming
9. Spectacles-Glasses worn to improve eyesight
10. Harvest- The gathering of crops
11. Badger- A wild animal with short legs
12. Crowded- Full of people or animals
13. Separate- Kept apart from others
14. Tunnel- An underground passage
15. Foreign- Belonging to another country
16. Famous- Well-known