

The Unlikely Best Friends

by **Subba Rao**

I. RTC

A. 'The next morning, the mahout found the stray dog in the stable. He did not mind the dog. He also noticed that Gajraj seemed to like the company. So, he threw some crumbs to the dog, which the animal accepted wagging his tail'.

1. A dog strayed into the stable one evening. What is the meaning of the verb of the statement?
2. How was the night for the dog?
3. ' He didn't mind the dog' - Explain the meaning of the statement.
4. Write any two uses of crumbs.
5. Replace the word 'seemed' .

B. By then the farmer who had followed the dog, joined him. The two of them watched with satisfaction the two friends eating food. "It's not only Gajraj who has found a friend," said the mahout hugging the farmer,"I have also found one."

1. By then, By which time is referred here? You can also state the incident.
2. Who does the two of them referred here?
3. How do you find its and it's different from each other?
4. By which feeling, does the mahout hug the farmer?
5. State the part of speech of the word- satisfaction. Provide it's verb form.

II. Short answer type questions

1. Who do you think is the hero of the story and why?
2. The farmer removes the rope round the neck of Buntree by telling a statement, write it in your words.
3. Write a situation in which children don't even like their favourite food.
4. In the whole story the dog yelped twice. Do you think both the yelping stands for the same reason. Support your answer.

5. How was the friendship of Gajraj and Buntree unlikely?

III. HOTS

1. Narrate the incident when and how you made your best friend.

2. Write any three similarities and differences between you and your best friend.

Answer Key

I. RTC

A. 1. The verb 'strayed' means to wander away or get lost from its home or usual path. It implies the dog came to the stable by accident, without a specific purpose.

2. The night was safe, comfortable, and warm for the dog. He was tired and hungry. After eating the food shoved away by Gajaraj he slept in the stable near the elephant.

3. This means the mahout did not object to or feel annoyed by the dog's presence. He allowed the dog to stay in the stable without any trouble.

4. Two uses of crumbs:

- To feed small animals like birds or stray dogs.
- To be used as a coating for fried food like cutlets.

5. Appeared / Looked / Felt.

B. 1. 'By then' refers to the moment when the mahout and the farmer were watching Gajraj (the elephant) and Buntree (the dog) eating food together happily.

2. 'The two of them' refers to the mahout (the elephant keeper) and the farmer (the dog's owner).

3. Its is a possessive pronoun (e.g., The dog wagged its tail.).

· It's is a contraction for 'it is' or 'it has' (e.g., It's a beautiful day.).

4. The mahout hugs the farmer out of happiness, joy, and a feeling of brotherhood/friendship. He is happy that both the animals and the humans have found friends.

5. Part of speech: Noun (abstract noun).

· Verb form: Satisfy (e.g., The food will satisfy your hunger.)

II. Short Answer Type Questions

1. I think the stray dog (Buntree) is the hero of the story. He is the one who initiates the friendship by courageously staying near the elephant. He also breaks the loneliness of Gajraj and ultimately brings the mahout and the farmer together as friends.

2. The farmer asked Buntree, if he misses his friend and if so then he can go to his friend without any hesitation.

3. Children might not like their favourite food when they are feeling sick, have a high fever, or are very upset about something (like a bad exam result or a fight with a friend). Their sickness or sadness makes them lose their appetite.

4. No, both yelps stand for different reasons.

· The first yelp was a cry of fear of water and happiness of being with his friend. When Gajraj took a trunkful of water and playfully splashed it on his friend.

· The second yelp was when both the friends were being separated from each other. Neither the mahout nor the farmer saw the tears of separation in their eyes .

5. Their friendship was unlikely because they are completely different species. Gajraj is a huge, slow elephant, while Buntree is a tiny, fast dog. Normally, a big elephant might ignore or even hurt a small dog, but here they became the best of friends, showing that size and species don't matter for true friendship.

III. HOTS

1. I made my best friend in 4th grade during a school picnic. I was feeling very shy and lonely because I didn't know anyone in my group. A boy named Arjun came up to me and offered me a piece of his chocolate. We started talking about our favourite cartoons and found out we loved the same ones. We spent the whole day together, playing games and sharing our food. Since that day, we have been inseparable.

2. Similarities Differences

1. We both love playing cricket. 1. I am tall, but my friend is short.
2. We both enjoy reading comic books. 2. I am very talkative, but my friend is quiet and shy.
3. We both are afraid of the dark. 3. I like Mathematics, but my friend loves English.