



## Notes Moments Chapter 2 - The Adventures of Toto

Author Name: Ruskin Bond

### Think about it

**Question 1.** How does Toto come to grandfather's private zoo?

**Answer:** Toto owned by a tonga-driver who used to keep him tied to a feeding-trough. Grandfather felt that the monkey was out of place there. So, he decided to add the little monkey to his private zoo. He bought Toto from the tonga-driver for five rupees.

**Question 2.** "Toto was a pretty monkey." In what sense is Toto pretty?

**Answer:** Toto had bright eyes with mischief beneath deep-set eyebrows. His pearly white teeth often displayed in a smile that frightened the life out of elderly Anglo-Indian ladies. His hands looked dried-up. His fingers were quick and wicked. His tail added to his good looks and also served as a third hand. He could use his tail to hang from a branch and to scoop up any delicacy that might be out of reach of his hands.

**Question 3.** Why does grandfather take Toto to Saharanpur and how? Why does the ticket collector insist on calling Toto a dog?

**Answer:** Grandfather takes Toto to Saharanpur because he would not allow his companions to sleep at night. Grandfather had to leave Dehra Dun the next day to collect his pension in Saharanpur. So, he decided to take Toto along. He took him in a bag by train. The ticket collector insisted on calling Toto a dog because he did not have any fixed fare for a monkey. The monkey could not charge as a human being. So, he decided to categorize it as a dog and charge accordingly.

**Question 4.** How does Toto take a bath? Where has he learnt to do this? How does Toto almost boil himself alive?

**Answer:** Toto took a bath by first checking the temperature of the water with his hand. Then he would put one foot in the water, then the other until he was in the water up to his neck. He would take the soap in his hands or feet and rub himself all over.

One day when a large kitchen kettle had left on the fire to boil for tea, Toto decided to remove the lid. He found that water was just warm enough for a bath and he got in with his head sticking out from the open kettle. The water



began to boil. He continued hopping up and down for time until grandmother arrived and hauled him out of the kettle. That is how he almost boiled himself alive.

**Question 5.** Why does the author say, “Toto was not the sort of pet we could keep for long”?

**Answer:** Toto was a very mischievous monkey. He would tear things into pieces. When one of author’s aunts would come near him, he would try and tear a hole in her dress. One day, Toto found stuffing himself with pullao. When author’s grandmother screamed, Toto threw a plate at her. He then picked up the dish of pullao and made his exit through a window. In order to spite grandmother, who had screamed at him, he threw the dish down from the tree and chattered with delight when it broke into a hundred pieces. The author’s family was not a well-to-do one. They could not afford the frequent loss of dishes, clothes, curtains, and wallpaper. That is why the author says, “Toto was not the sort of pet we could keep for long.”

#### Summary

The Adventures of Toto is an amusing story written by Ruskin Bond. This story features the antics of a naughty monkey named ‘Toto.’ The narrator’s grandfather was very fond of animals. One day, he bought a small baby monkey from a tonga-driver for a sum of five rupees. Grandfather had a collection of animals in his private zoo such as a tortoise, a tiny squirrel, a pair of rabbits and a pet goat. Toto was a new addition to the group.

Toto was a cute little monkey with sparkling eyes and was very mischievous by nature. He had pearl-white teeth and had a long tail that served as his third hand. The narrator’s grandmother was not so fond of animals, so Grandfather decided to keep Toto in a secret place. He kept the baby monkey in the narrator’s little closet in his bedroom and tied Toto to a peg fastened to the wall. Being a mischievous monkey, Toto created nuisance from the first day itself. He spoilt the ornamental wallpaper, damaged the peg, and tore the narrator’s blazer into pieces. Seeing all this mischief, Grandfather realised that Toto was a smart animal.

Soon, Toto transferred to a huge cage and kept him where the servants stayed along with Grandfather’s other animals who lived together amiably. But the monkey had a troublesome nature and created nuisance for the other pets. So, when Grandfather had to travel to Saharanpur to collect his pension, he secretly took Toto along with him. He packed the monkey in a big black



canvas kitbag, so that the animal could not come out of it. However, he jumped and rolled inside the bag on the floors of Dehradun railway station.

However, when Grandfather reached Saharanpur, Toto peeped out of the bag and smiled at the ticket-collector at the railway station, who charged Grandfather a fare of three rupees for carrying a 'dog.' Grandfather argued that Toto was not a dog, but he still paid the fare. He had his pet tortoise along with him for which the ticket-collector did not charge anything.

Finally, Grandmother accepted Toto. Soon after that, Grandfather shifted him to a comfortable place in the stable along with his family donkey, Nana. But Toto would always tease Nana and they never became friends. Toto created lot of nuisances wherever he went. He enjoyed taking hot water baths during winter. At one instance, he almost boiled himself alive when he jumped in a huge kitchen kettle that kept on the fire for making tea. When Grandmother saw this, she quickly rescued and saved him from burnt.

As days passed, Toto's mischiefs went on increasing when he tore clothes into pieces and broke utensils in the house. One day, Toto was having pullao from a large dish during lunch-time kept on the dining table. When Grandmother saw this, she screamed, and another woman came forward. Toto splashed water on the face of that woman. When Grandmother came closer, Toto took the pullao plate and jumped into the branches of a jackfruit tree. He purposely threw the plate from the tree that broke it into pieces.

Meanwhile, everyone in the family was very annoyed with Toto's mischievous traits. It was becoming difficult to manage him as his menace increased by the day. With a heavy heart, Grandfather decided to give away Toto to the tonga-driver and sold him for three rupees only.

#### The Adventures of Toto Character Sketch

**Grandfather:** Grandfather was a lover of animals. He had put up a zoo in his house where he had number of animals and reared them with care and affection. He brings home a monkey caned Toto. But since the monkey is a wild animal, he could not have a peaceful life. So, Toto had returned to its previous owner.

**Toto, the monkey:** Toto was a beautiful, little monkey. He was with a tonga driver. Grandfather took pity on him and brought him home. He created lot of mischiefs and brought so much trouble in the house. He tore clothes and disturbed other animals in grandfather's zoo. So, grandfather had to give him back to the tonga-driver.



### Short Summary

This story is about the narrator's grandfather's admiration and liking for animals. He bought a baby monkey from a tonga driver and named it Toto. He wanted Toto because he already possessed a tortoise, a pair of rabbits, a tame squirrel, a goat but no monkey. With the coming of Toto his mini zoo transformed into a real zoo. Toto's presence was kept top secret as grandmother abhorred animals. Toto was kept in a little closet which opened into the narrator's room. Toto tore off narrator's school blazer. Toto when kept in the zoo, started troubling other animals. One day, grandfather had to go to Saharanpur to collect his pension. He took Toto along with him because he was a great menace to be left in the zoo troubling other animals. Toto was ultimately accepted by the family. He was left in the stable to stay along with Nana, the family donkey even Nana got fed up of Toto. One day, Toto nearly boiled himself alive by jumping into the large kitchen kettle that had been left on the fire to boil for tea. It was grandmother who came to his rescue and saved him. As days passed by, Toto's pernicious activities did not lessen therefore ultimately grandfather sold back Toto to the tonga-driver and ultimately heaved a sigh of relief.

