

- Mijbil The Otter Summary

Mijbil The Otter Summary

The story "Mijbil - The Otter" by Gavin Maxwell narrates the author's experience of domesticating an otter named Mijbil. The author, feeling lonely after losing his pet dog, decides to bring home an otter from the marshes along the river Tigris in Iraq. After receiving Mijbil as a gift from his friend, the author patiently helps the otter adapt to his new environment. Mijbil initially is shy and covered in mud, but gradually becomes playful and affectionate, especially enjoying water and games. The journey back to London is challenging due to airline restrictions, but with the help of a kind air hostess, the author manages to bring Mijbil safely. In London, Mijbil's playful nature continues, amusing the author and confusing the locals who are unfamiliar with otters.

Key Elements

- **Theme:** Companionship, adaptation, and the bond between humans and animals.
- **Characters:** The narrator (author), Mijbil (the otter), the friend who gifts Mijbil, the air hostess, and the people of London.
- **Setting:** Begins in Basra, Iraq, and moves to London.
- **Plot:** Acquisition of Mijbil, his adaptation, journey to London, and life there.

Textual Evidence

"Mij loved playing with water so much so that he even learnt to open the tap on his own." This shows Mijbil's playful and intelligent nature.

"As soon as he opened the box, the otter leapt out and disappeared, thereby creating a chaos." This highlights the challenges faced during travel.

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- Who is Mijbil?
- Where did the author get Mijbil from?

Level 2 – Moderate

- Describe Mijbil's behavior when he first arrived.
- How did the author manage to take Mijbil on the flight?

Level 3 – Challenging

- Explain the significance of the relationship between the author and Mijbil.
- Discuss the challenges faced in domesticating a wild animal as depicted in the story.

Answer Key

- **Who is Mijbil?** Mijbil is an otter gifted to the author by his friend.
- **Where did the author get Mijbil from?** From the marshes along the river Tigris in Iraq.
- **Describe Mijbil's behavior when he first arrived.** Mijbil was shy, covered in mud, and took time to get accustomed to his surroundings.
- **How did the author manage to take Mijbil on the flight?** He booked a flight that allowed animals and carried Mijbil in a box on his lap as advised by the air hostess.
- **Explain the significance of the relationship between the author and Mijbil.** The relationship shows companionship and the effort to adapt and care for a wild animal, highlighting empathy and responsibility.

- **Discuss the challenges faced in domesticating a wild animal as depicted in the story.** Challenges included Mijbil's initial reluctance, the mess during travel, and the reactions of people unfamiliar with otters.

Quick Reference

- **Domesticate:** To adapt an animal to live with humans.
- **Squished:** To squeeze or crush something.

Glossary

- **Otter:** A semi-aquatic mammal known for its playful behavior.
- **Basra:** A city in Iraq near the marshes where Mijbil was found.
- **Adaptation:** The process of adjusting to new conditions.
- **Air hostess:** A female flight attendant who assists passengers during flights.