

- The Adventures of Toto Summary

## The Adventures of Toto Summary

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"The Adventures of Toto" is a delightful story by Ruskin Bond that narrates the experiences of the narrator's grandfather with a mischievous baby monkey named Toto. The grandfather, an animal lover, already had a small collection of pets including a tortoise, rabbits, a squirrel, and a goat, but he desired a monkey to complete his little zoo. He bought Toto from a tonga-driver, a person who drives a horse-drawn carriage, and kept Toto's presence a secret from the grandmother, who strongly disliked animals.

Toto was kept in a small closet adjoining the narrator's room, where he caused trouble by tearing the narrator's school blazer and disturbing other animals in the zoo. When the grandfather had to travel to Saharanpur to collect his pension, he took Toto along because the monkey was too much of a menace to be left alone. Toto was eventually accepted by the family and stayed in the stable with Nana, the family donkey, who also grew tired of Toto's antics.

One day, Toto nearly boiled himself alive by jumping into a large kitchen kettle left on the fire. It was the grandmother who saved him, despite her dislike for animals. However, Toto's harmful and troublesome behavior continued, leading the grandfather to sell him back to the tonga-driver, feeling relieved at the end.

### Key Words

- **Tonga-driver:** A person who drives a horse-drawn carriage called a tonga.
- **Abhorred:** To strongly dislike or regard with disgust.

- **Blazer:** A type of jacket, often part of a uniform.
- **Menace:** A threat or danger.
- **Stable:** A building where animals like horses or donkeys are kept.
- **Pernicious:** Having a harmful effect, especially gradually.
- **Heaved:** To lift or raise with effort, often with relief.

## Practice Set

### Level 1 – Easy

- Who was Toto and where did the grandfather get him from?
- Why was Toto kept a secret from the grandmother?

### Level 2 – Moderate

- Describe the trouble Toto caused in the zoo.
- Explain why the grandfather took Toto along to Saharanpur.

### Level 3 – Challenging

- Discuss the significance of the incident where Toto jumped into the boiling kettle.
- Analyze the grandfather's feelings when he decided to sell Toto back to the tonga-driver.

## Answer Key

### Level 1 – Easy

- Toto was a baby monkey bought by the grandfather from a tonga-driver.
- Toto was kept secret because the grandmother abhorred animals and disliked having them in the house.

## Level 2 – Moderate

- Toto caused trouble by tearing the narrator's school blazer and disturbing other animals in the zoo.
- The grandfather took Toto along to Saharanpur because Toto was a menace and could not be left alone in the zoo.

## Level 3 – Challenging

- The incident shows Toto's mischievous nature and the danger he put himself in, highlighting the challenges of keeping a wild animal as a pet.
- The grandfather felt relieved after selling Toto because the monkey's pernicious activities were too difficult to manage.

## Quick Reference

- **Toto:** Baby monkey, mischievous pet.
- **Grandfather:** Animal lover, owner of Toto.
- **Grandmother:** Disliked animals, saved Toto from danger.
- **Zoo:** Small collection of animals including Toto.
- **Key incidents:** Toto tearing blazer, disturbing animals, jumping into kettle.

## Glossary

- **Tonga-driver:** Driver of a horse-drawn carriage.
- **Abhorred:** Strongly disliked.
- **Blazer:** Formal jacket.
- **Menace:** Threat or danger.
- **Stable:** Animal shelter.
- **Pernicious:** Harmful.
- **Heaved:** Lifted with effort.