

- The Unlikely Best Friends Summary
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## The Unlikely Best Friends Summary

**Summary:** "The Unlikely Best Friends" is a story by Subba Rao about the unusual friendship between Gajaraj, a royal elephant, and Buntree, a stray dog. Despite Gajaraj's royal comforts, he was lonely and wished for a friend. When Buntree arrived at the stable, the two formed a close bond, playing and spending time together. Their friendship was tested when Buntree was taken away by a farmer, but the dog returned to Gajaraj, showing their strong connection. The story highlights themes of friendship, companionship, and loyalty across differences.

### Key Elements

- **Characters:** Gajaraj (elephant), Buntree (dog), Mahout (elephant caretaker), Farmer
- **Themes:** Friendship, Loneliness, Compassion, Loyalty
- **Setting:** Royal stables and nearby village

### Textual Evidence

"I wish I had a friend I can play with," thought Gajaraj.

"If you miss your friend so much, go to him," said the farmer.

## Practice Set

### Level 1 – Easy

- Who was Gajaraj?
- Why was Gajaraj sad despite royal comforts?

### Level 2 – Moderate

- Describe how Gajaraj and Buntree became friends.
- What did the farmer do when he found Buntree?

### Level 3 – Challenging

- Explain the significance of the friendship between Gajaraj and Buntree.
- How does the story show the importance of companionship?

## Answer Key

- Gajaraj was a royal elephant living in the king's stables.
- He was sad because he had no friends to play with.
- Gajaraj shared his food with the stray dog Buntree, and they started spending time together.
- The farmer recognized Buntree and took him home, but later released him when he saw Buntree was unhappy.
- The friendship shows that companionship can cross differences in species and status.
- The story highlights that having a friend brings joy and comfort, reducing loneliness.

## Quick Reference

- **Friendship:** A bond of mutual affection and support.
- **Mahout:** Elephant caretaker.
- **Stray:** An animal without a home.

## Glossary

- **Booth:** A small enclosed space.
- **Stables:** Buildings where animals are kept.
- **Interacted:** Communicated or engaged with.
- **Strayed:** Wandered away from the proper place.
- **Munching:** Chewing food steadily.
- **Wagged:** Moved tail side to side.
- **Convey:** To communicate or express.
- **Crumbs:** Small pieces of food.
- **Accompanied:** Went along with someone.
- **Plunging:** Jumping into water.
- **Trunk:** The long nose of an elephant.
- **Yelped:** A short sharp cry.
- **Splashed:** Threw water or liquid around.

## Literary Devices in The Unlikely Best Friends

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**Explanation:** The story uses simple language and literary devices to convey its themes effectively.

### Key Devices

- **Personification:** The elephant and dog are given human-like feelings and thoughts, such as loneliness and friendship.
- **Imagery:** Descriptions of the royal stables, the elephant pond, and the playful water splash create vivid pictures.
- **Symbolism:** The friendship symbolizes harmony and companionship beyond differences.
- **Dialogue:** Conversations between characters reveal emotions and advance the story.

## Examples

- “I wish I had a friend I can play with,” shows the elephant’s loneliness.
- The playful splash of water from the elephant’s trunk illustrates joy and friendship.

## Practice Set

### Level 1 – Easy

- Identify one example of personification in the story.

### Level 2 – Moderate

- Explain how imagery is used to describe the elephant’s environment.

### Level 3 – Challenging

- Discuss the symbolism of the friendship between Gajaraj and Buntree.

## Answer Key

- Personification: The elephant thinking and feeling lonely.
- Imagery: The description of the elephant pond and royal stables paints a clear picture.
- Symbolism: The friendship represents peace and acceptance across differences.

## Quick Reference

- **Personification:** Giving human traits to animals or objects.

- **Imagery:** Descriptive language that appeals to the senses.
- **Symbolism:** Using symbols to represent ideas.

## Glossary

- **Personification:** Attributing human qualities to non-human things.
- **Imagery:** Language that creates sensory experiences.
- **Symbolism:** Use of symbols to signify ideas.

## Writing Skills: Letter Writing

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**Explanation:** Letter writing is an important skill in English. It involves writing messages to people in a formal or informal way.

### Key Elements

- **Format:** Sender's address, date, salutation, body, closing, signature.
- **Types:** Formal and informal letters.
- **Purpose:** To communicate information, feelings, or requests.

### Example: Informal Letter

Dear Friend,

I hope you are well. I want to tell you about my new school. It is very big and has many friends. I miss you and hope to see you soon.

Your friend,

[Name]

### Practice Set

- Write a letter to your friend inviting them to your birthday party.

### Level 2 – Moderate

- Write a letter to your teacher thanking them for their help.

### Level 3 – Challenging

- Write a letter to the principal requesting a new library in your school.

### Answer Key

- Include all parts of the letter format.
- Use polite and clear language.
- Express your purpose clearly.

### Quick Reference

- **Salutation:** Greeting at the start of the letter.
- **Closing:** Polite ending phrase.

### Glossary

- **Salutation:** The greeting in a letter.
- **Signature:** The name of the person writing the letter.

## Grammar: Past Tense Forms

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**Explanation:** Past tense verbs describe actions that happened in the past. There are three main forms:

## Key Elements

- **Simple Past:** Action completed in the past. Formed by adding -ed or using the second form of irregular verbs. Example: played, went.
- **Past Progressive:** Action ongoing at a past time. Formed with was/were + verb+ing. Example: was playing.
- **Past Perfect:** Action completed before another past action. Formed with had + past participle. Example: had played.

## Examples

Verb	Simple Past	Past Progressive	Past Perfect
play	played	was playing	had played
go	went	was going	had gone

## Practice Set

### Level 1 – Easy

- Identify the simple past form of the verb 'talk'.

### Level 2 – Moderate

- Form sentences using past progressive tense.

### Level 3 – Challenging

- Write sentences using past perfect tense to show sequence of events.

## Answer Key

- Simple past of 'talk' is 'talked'.
- Example past progressive: I was talking when he arrived.
- Example past perfect: I had finished my homework before dinner.

## Quick Reference

- **Simple Past:** Verb + -ed (regular) or second form (irregular).
- **Past Progressive:** was/were + verb+ing.
- **Past Perfect:** had + past participle.

## Glossary

- **Verb:** Action word.
- **Past Participle:** Third form of verb used in perfect tenses.