

LITERATURE

STD-VII

SUBJECT : ENGLISH
CHAPTER NUMBER:
PERIOD NUMBER : 1
CHAPTER NAME : The Plaint of the Camel
BY Charles Edward Carryl

CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- (i) Reading Comprehension followed by questions
- (ii) Be acquainted with short story/Fiction
- (iii) Understanding the plot
- (iv) Understanding characters
- (v) Developing LSRW Skills
- (vi) Know how to write a story- Beginning, middle and end

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES/ EXTENDED OBJECTIVES

- (i) Develop LSRW
- (ii) Appreciating the story, plot, characters
- (iii) Developing skill of Critical appreciation
- (iv) Focus on the underprivileged tribal of India
- (v) Be aware of the importance of asking questions
- (vi) Be acquainted with typical vocabulary meant for story writing
- (vii) Appreciating varieties of style and diction in literary writing

INTRODUCTION TO THE AUTHOR

Charles Edward Carryl (1841-1920) was an American author of children's books. He was born in New York. Some of his other works are the novel *Davy and the Goblin* and the poem *The Walloping Window Blind*, which is written in a style similar to that of Lewis Carroll. In this poem, Carryl plays a witty tribute to the hardworking camel, which lives and works in hot and uncomfortable places like deserts.



Theme of the Poem

It is a complaint of a camel. First, it complains about the food given to it by comparing with others. Then, it complains about the place it sleeps. Then it complains about the home given to it. Furthermore, It complains about people riding on it and at last it complains about its looks. This is the very nature of humans, we never learn to appreciate what we have but we will always keep complaining by comparing ourselves with others.



Canary-Birds feed on sugar and seed,
Parrots have crackers to crunch:
And, as for the poodles, they tell me the noodles
Have chickens and cream for their lunch.
But there's never a question
About MY digestion—
Anything does for me!

Summary : The camel complains regarding food. It says that the Canary birds are given sugars to eat. Most parrots eat flowers, fruits and insects. They have a strong jaws that allow them to snap open cover to get the seeds. Poodles are a breed a of dog. It enjoys eating noodles, chickens and cream for the lunch, but poor camel; he compares his food with Canary birds, parrot and poodles as whatever is given to them for eating, they eat it as they can digest it. No particular diet is followed, where as camel can eat only leafy vegetable, or branches, that is why it is different.



Difficult words

Canary-Birds : a domesticated form of the wild canary,
a small songbird

poodles : a breed of water dog.



'Cats, you're aware, can repose in a chair,
Chickens can roost upon rails;
Puppies are able to sleep in a stable,
And oysters can slumber in pails.
But no one supposes
A poor Camel dozes—
Any place does for me!

Summary : In this stanza the camel complains about its sleeping place. It says that everyone has a resting place. Like a cat can sleep on a chair. Chickens can rest in farms. Puppies can sleep in a stable, oysters can rest in pails. All of them have a particular place to sleep , but our poor camel dozes off anywhere it does, not having a particular place to sleep. The camel sleeps in the open area of a dessert and does not have a specified place, where it can go and take a nap.



Difficult words

repose : to sleep

slumber : to sleep

pails : a place for the oysters to sleep



'Lambs are enclosed where it's never exposed,
Coops are constructed for hens:
Kittens are treated to houses well heated,
And pigs are protected by pens.
But a Camel comes handy
Wherever it's sandy—
Anywhere does for me!

Summary : In this stanza the poet says that the camel complains regarding the dwelling place. It compares itself with a lamb, whose dwelling place is surround on all side and is not visible to anyone, so that it can rest. Then it compares itself to a hen, who also stays in its home called coop. Kitten has a well heated room to dwell and pigs are kept carefully in their home, called pens. All of them have a particular place to live. However, a camel has only sand as its dwelling place as desert is his habitat.



'People would laugh if you rode a giraffe,
Or mounted the back of an ox;
It's nobody's habit to ride on a rabbit,
Or try to bestraddle a fox.
But as for a Camel, he's
Ridden by families—
Any load does for me!

Summary : In this stanza, the poet says that the camel is complaining as how people use it and put any amount of weight or burden on its back. People also sit on its back to travel. However, no one rides on a giraffe, ox, rabbit or a fox. Humans have used camel as a means of transportation for thousands of years.



'A snake is as round as a hole in the ground,
And weasels are wavy and sleek;
And no alligator could ever be straighter
Than lizards that live in a creek,
But a Camel's all lumpy
And bumpy and humpy—
Any shape does for me!'

Summary : The poet says that the camel is complaining about its look and its features. It says that all animals have a sleek feature like that of a snake, who inspite of being so big, can enter a hole in the ground. weasels have long and thin fur covered body with a light under belly, short legs, small head and rounded ears. Alligator has a long armed body and thick skins or bony plates, whereas lizards have dry skin with four legs and a long tail. But the camel is sad for its shape as he is having a bumpy and humpy shape.



THANKING YOU
ODM EDUCATIONAL GROUP