

**DATE: 14/04/2020**

**SUBJECT: ENGLISH (ALIEN HAND)**

**CLASS: VII**

### **LESSON-1 THE TINY TEACHER**

#### **SUMMARY**

The ant being the smallest insect is also an intelligent and hardworking creature. As it is the commonest insect, we know a number of facts about it. An ant has feelers, which is also called antennae. It uses them to talk and greet other ants, while moving up or down the wall. The black or red ones are commonest among them. They live in their comfortable homes, generally called as nests or anthills, just below the surface of the soil. Each anthill has hundreds of little rooms and passages. The queen ant lays eggs in some of these rooms. Other rooms are nurseries, stores, reserved quarters and separate barracks etc. Ants of each category carry their duty sincerely without disturbing the other. This is the reason, why the ant enjoys a peaceful life.

The queen ant is the mother of entire population of the colony. Its life span is about fifteen years. The queen ant only lays eggs after its wedding flight with a drone. Through the life cycle [Egg->Grub->Cocoon>Ant], a perfect ant appears. They learn their duties from old ant and ready to survive in the world as cleaners, nurses, workers, soldiers and trainers. They also allow other creatures to live in their anthill to get pleasant smell, sweet juice and playthings. People should learn many qualities from this wisest creature like hard work, sense of duty and discipline, cleanliness, care for the young ones and above all, loyalty towards their country.

By working intelligently and bravely like them and behaving in a non-interfering way, we too can live a peaceful life.

#### **COMPREHENSION CHECK (PAGE-3)**

**Q1. In what ways is an ant's life peaceful?**

**Ans. The ants live in peace because each one does its share of work honestly, wisely and bravely. They don't interfere in the work given to others. They never fight in their group.**

#### **COMPREHENSION CHECK (PAGE-5)**

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

**Q1. How long does it take for a grub to become a complete ant?**

**Ans. It takes two or three weeks for a grub to become a cocoon and lies without food or activity for three weeks more. Then the cocoon breaks and perfect ant comes out. Hence, it takes five or six weeks for a grub to become a complete ant.**

**Q2. Why do the worker ants carry the grubs about?**

**Ans. The grubs are carried about daily by the worker ants for airing, exercise and sunshine.**

**Q3. What jobs are new ants trained for?**

**Ans. The new ants learn their duties from old ants as workers, soldiers, builders, cleaners etc.**

**Q4. Name some other creatures that live in anthills.**

**Ans. Some other creatures that live in anthills are beetles, lesser breed of ants and the greenfly.**

**Q5. Mention three things we can learn from the 'tiny teacher'. Give reasons for choosing these items.**

**Ans. We can learn from the tiny ants the lesson of hard work, sense of duty, discipline, cleanliness, loyalty and care for the young ones. These lessons are necessary for happiness and smooth functioning of the society.**

## LESSON -2 BRINGING UP KARI

### SUMMARY

Kari was an elephant. He was five months old, when he came to the author. Kari lived in a pavilion. It was under a thatched roof, which rested on thick tree stumps. Kari bumped against the poles as he moved about the enclosure. Yet the poles didn't give way. It was so because these poles were made of thick tree stumps. Kari enjoyed his morning bath in the river. He would lie in the water for a long time. On coming out, he would squeal with pleasure. After the bath, the author would leave him on the edge of the jungle. He would himself go into the forest to get some twigs for the elephant's dinner. It took a long time. First, the author would sharpen his hatchet which took half an hour. Then the author had to climb trees to get the most delicate and tender twigs. Doing all this naturally took a long time.

Kari and the author were good friends. But Kari once pushed him into the stream to save the life of a boy. He saw a boy lying on the bottom of the river. He dived and pulled the body of the drowning boy to the surface. However, the author was not a swimmer. So, he could not come ashore. The current began to drag him down. Kari saw it. He came fast into the water. The author caught his trunk. He pulled both the author and the boy ashore.

Kari was like a baby. Like a baby, he had to be told when he was naughty. He developed a taste for bananas. He began to steal them. Large plates of fruit were kept on a table in the dining room. Kari would put his trunk through the window to the bananas. In one attempt, he would take them all. He would then quietly go to his pavilion. There he ate the bananas at peace without being seen. At last, the author caught him stealing. When he was scolded, he understood like a baby and did not steal again. Again, like babies he was a quick learner. Kari learnt 'Mali' after three lessons but it took him three weeks to learn 'Dhat'. Dhat was the command to sit while 'Mali' was the command to walk. These commands were taught to him just as one teaches a child.

The teaching of master call to an elephant is a difficult thing. An elephant generally takes five years to learn it. Yet it is the most important signal for an elephant to learn. It is so because it helps an elephant to save his master's life. Sometimes they are lost in the jungle and there is no way out. Then the master makes a strange hissing, howling sound in the elephant's ear. A trained elephant understands it and at once pulls out the tree in front of him. This frightens all the animals away. Even the tiger is frightened. The elephant goes on pulling down the trees one after the other. Thus a path is made out of the forest.

### WORD MEANINGS:

**squeal:** cry or trumpet

**luscious:** tasty and sweet smelling

**Hatchet:** small axe

**Mutilated:** torn awkwardly or disfigured

**Lasso:** rope with a noose at the end

### ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

**Q1. The enclosure in which Kari lived had a thatched roof that lay on thick tree stumps. Examine the illustrations of Kari's pavilion on page 8 and say why it was built that way.**

**Ans. Kari's pavilion was built under a thatched roof having its support on a thick tree trunk. The support was necessary to save the roof from falling down when he moved about and bumped against the bamboo poles.**

**Q2. Did Kari enjoy his morning bath in the river? Give a reason for your answer.**

**Ans. Yes, Kari enjoyed his morning bath in the river as he lay down in the sand bank and let his master rub his back, he also lay in the river water for a long time. He would squeal with pleasure when water was rubbed down his back.**

**Q3. Finding good twigs for Kari took a long time. Why?**

**Ans. Finding good twigs for Kari took a long time because his master had to climb all kinds of trees to get the most delicate and tender twigs. Also if a twig was mutilated, the elephant would not touch it. So, one had to have a very sharp hatchet to cut down these twigs. It was not an easy job.**

**Q4. Why did Kari push his friend into the stream?**

**Ans. Kari pushed his friend into the stream because a boy was lying flat on the bottom of the river and Kari wanted his friend to save the life of that boy.**

**Q5. Kari was like a baby. What are the main points of comparison?**

**Ans. Kari was like a baby because he had to be trained to be good just like a baby. He had to be taught when to sit down, when to walk, when to go fast, and when to go slow. When he was naughty, he need to be scolded and if not, he will do more mischief.**

**Q6. Kari helped himself to all the bananas in the house without anyone noticing it. How did he do it?**

**Ans. Kari stole the bananas from the table near the window in the dining room. He put his trunk through the window very much like a snake and disappeared with all the bananas without anyone noticing it.**

**Q7. Kari learnt the commands to sit and to walk. What were the instructions for each command?**

**Ans. When his master pulled his ear and say 'Dhat', Kari sit down and when he pulled his trunk forward and say 'Mali', Kari walked.**

**Q8. What is "the master call"? Why is it the most important signal for an elephant to learn?**

**Ans. The master call is a strange hissing, howling sound as if a snake and a tiger were fighting with each other. It is the most important signal for an elephant because whenever the master was in trouble, on master call would bring the elephant near him and help him out of danger.**

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