



**INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**



Subject : English Lesson : The Tiger King by Kalki

Date of Worksheet : March 2019

Name of the Student : _____

Date: _____

Class & Div : XII

Roll Number : ____

Summary

The story 'The Tiger King' is a satire on the pride and stubbornness of those in power. The writer takes us to the days of autocratic and eccentric kings. These kings lived under the thumb rule of British, hence they fear them. Most of the time the rulers were not interested in serving the people and working for the welfare of the public; instead they spent their time in foolish pursuits. They flouted all laws and bent them to suit their selfish interests. The Maharaja of Pratibandapuram tried to oppose what was written in his fate. The chief astrologer had predicted that the cause of his death would be a tiger. His campaign of tiger-hunting was very successful. All his strategies and wise plans worked till he killed 99 tigers. But the hundredth tiger eluded him till his death.

The irony of fate brings quite an unexpected end of the Maharaja. The hero who killed ninety nine tigers couldn't kill the only one that was left. The last tiger he thought to be dead survived. The King's bullet had missed its mark.

Ironically, the hundredth tiger which caused his death was not a ferocious beast of blood and flesh. It was a wooden tiger. One of the slivers of wood pierced his right hand and caused infection and a suppurating sore. It ultimately led to his death.

I Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each:

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- (a) Who is the tiger king? How did the tiger king acquire his name?

The Maharaja of Pratibandapuram is often referred to as the Tiger King. He got this name because when he was born, a prophecy was made that he would most certainly meet his death through a tiger, as he was born in the hour of the bull. The bull and the tiger are known to be bitter enemies.

- (b) How did the chief astrologer react to the tiger king's question about the manner of his death? How did the tiger king take it?

Ans. When the ten days old baby barely opened its lips in speech, the chief

astrologer was wonderstruck. He thought it to be incredible that the baby raised an intelligent question –to know about the manner of his death. The astrologer told that the prince was born in the hour of the bull. The bull and tiger are enemies. Therefore, death to him shall come from the Tiger.

(c) What did the royal infant grow up to be?

The royal infant grew taller and stronger day by day. The boy grew up in English environment. He drank the milk of an English cow. He was brought up by an English nanny and tutored in English by an Englishman. He saw nothing but English films. When he came of age twenty, the State, which had been with the Court of Wards until then, came into his hands.

(d) Why was it celebration time for all the tigers inhabiting Pratibandapuram?

Ans. There was a celebration time for all the tigers inhabiting Pratibandapuram because the state banned tiger hunting by anyone except the Maharaja and a proclamation was issued to the effect that if any one dared to fling a stone at a tiger, all his wealth and property would be seized.

(e) What did the high-ranking British officer wish to do? Was his wish fulfilled?

Ans. The high-ranking British officer wanted to kill a tiger. When he was denied the permission for hunting, he sent a word to the king that he would be happy if he was allowed to get photographed with the dead body of a tiger killed by the king. However, his wish remained unfulfilled.

(f) What did the Maharaja do to find the required number of tigers to kill?

The Maharaja's tiger hunts continued to be highly successful. Within ten years, he was able to kill seventy tigers. Thereby, thirty more tigers were required to be shot. The tiger population had become extinct in the forests of Pratibandapuram. So, the Maharaja decided to marry a girl from a royal family of a state with a large tiger population.

(g) What did the Maharaja do when he stood in danger of losing his kingdom?

The Maharaja obtained some fifty expensive diamond rings of different designs from a British Company of Jewellers in Calcutta and sent them to the British officer's good lady expecting her to choose one or two rings and send the rest back. But she kept all the rings and thanked the Maharaja for the gift. This cost the Maharaja three lakh rupees but his kingdom was saved.

(h) Why did the Maharaja's tiger killing mission come to a sudden still?

Within ten years Maharaja's tiger hunting had resulted in the killing of seventy tigers. However his tiger killing mission came to a sudden standstill because the

tiger population became extinct in the forest of Pratibandapuram.

- (i) How did the Maharaja prepare himself for the hundredth tiger which was supposed to decide his fate?

The Maharaja had killed ninety – nine tigers. By then, tigers had become extinct even in his father – in – law’s kingdom. Still one more was to be killed. The Maharaja searched for the last tiger in his own state as well as his father – in – law’s. A tiger had been brought from the People’s Park in Madras by the king’s dewan. It was left in the forest where the Maharaja was hunting.

- (j) What will now happen to the astrologer? Do you think the prophecy was indisputably disproved?

No harm would come to the astrologer now as the Tiger King was no more. The king thought that he had killed the hundredth tiger but actually, the tiger survived as the Maharaja’s bullet had missed it. Later, one of the hunters killed this tiger. Therefore, the astrologer’s prophecy was not indisputably disproved. The Maharaja, however, was not aware of this truth.

II. Answer the following questions in 120-150 words:

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- (a) The story is a satire on the conceit of those in power. How does the author employ the literary device of dramatic irony in the story?

The story "The Tiger King" is a supreme example of dramatic irony. The character acts in a way grossly inappropriate to the actual circumstances or expects the opposite of what fate holds in store for him'. Kalki has used a very dexterous use of dramatic irony in the story. After killing the first tiger the King flaunts its dead body before astrologer to show that he is more powerful than the tiger. However, the astrologer warns the king that he should be "careful with the hundredth tiger". The king chooses to prove the astrologer wrong once again and makes frantic efforts to kill hundred tigers. Thus, having shot at the old tiger, the Tiger King believes he has killed the hundredth tiger. But the reader as well as the king's officers and minions soon come to know that the emaciated tiger does not get killed but only faints. The King gets happy of killing the tiger but in actual ignorant of this ironical fate the prediction proves to be right and mere sliver on wooden tiger's body causes his dramatic death. Quite ironically the hundredth tiger kills the king instead and astrologer's predictions stands vindicated.

- (b) What impression do you form about the Tiger King after reading the story?

The Maharaja of Pratibandapuram, Sir Jilani Jung JungBahadur, had many titles and sub-names. But he was popular as the Tiger King. The chief astrologer predicted that his death would come from a tiger. Crown prince Jung JungBahadur grew taller and stronger day by day. When he grew to twenty he took the reign in his hands. The Maharaja continued his campaign of tiger-hunting with rare single mindedness. Within a span of ten years he killed 70 tigers. It was his master strategy to marry a girl of a state which had a large tiger population. So he was able to kill 99 tigers in all. The Tiger King could pay any price to maintain his kingdom. He had to give a bribe worth three lakh rupees to a high ranking British official to retain his kingdom. The Maharaja knew how to take work from his minions. He used the dewan to find out the suitable girl for his marriage. He could be hot-headed and doubled the tax on the people. He also threatened the dewan to dismiss him from his service. It is ironical that the King met his death by a wooden tiger. At last, the hundredth tiger took revenge upon him.

III. WRITING SKILL- CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT

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1. Gargi Public School in Agra requires cricket coaches. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words for the 'Situation Vacant' column of the 'Daily Herald', stating your requirement regarding age, qualification, experience etc. You are the Principal of the school.
2. You are Gayatri / Gaurav Seth of 23 A, Maharani Bagh, New Delhi, and you wish to rent out your fourth floor apartment in Ambience Apartments, Gurugram. Giving all the necessary details, draft an advertisement for a national daily in not more than 50 words.
3. You are Shirish Saxena of 47, Mall Road, Shimla. You are a young man of 35 with seven years of experience as an export executive. You seek an immediate change to some prestigious export house in Mumbai / Bangalore. Draft a suitable advertisement for the 'Situation Wanted' column of a National Daily.
4. You have lost the library book issued in your name while returning home by a local bus. Write an advertisement for the 'Lost and Found' column of a local daily, giving the particulars of the book.
5. You plan to sell your old car. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be inserted in a reputed national daily giving all the necessary details of the car.
5. You are Harish/Harshita of 12, Seva Nagar, Pune. You want to sell your flat as you are shifting to another city for work. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in *The Pune Times* under the classified columns. (Board 2017)