

## Grade VIII - English

### Lesson 6. This is Jody's Fawn

Prose

#### Soul of the Chapter

##### Jody Takes Permission to Raise the Fawn

Jody expresses his sympathies for the fawn that has just lost its mother. He seeks his father's permission to raise the fawn. Jody's father, Penny, is put in a fix, as the mother of the fawn was killed in order to save Penny. He could not refuse Jody's plea for that would be disgraceful to leave the fawn starving while the fawn's mother gave new life to Penny. Jody further explains that since he is a big boy, he would not need much milk and his portion could be used to feed the fawn.

##### Jody Informs his Mother and Left for that Fawn

Jody informs his mother that father has given him permission to bring back the fawn and raise it. The mother becomes anxious as she is worried about the expenses to maintain the fawn. However, both Jody and Doc Wilson help her and understand their obligation towards the fawn. Mill-wheel assures Jody's mother that he would help Jody find the fawn and also bring them back home. On reaching the place where his father had been bitten by the snake and doe killed to save the father, Jody asks Mill-wheel to leave him alone. He was worried that if he was unable to find the fawn, his disappointment would be difficult to hide. And if the fawn was still there he would have liked the meeting to take place only between the two of them. He, therefore, lets Mill-wheel know that he would now manage it on his own and Mill-wheel should leave.

##### Jody Begins to Look for the Fawn

As the sound of Mill-Wheel's horde's hooves faded away, Jody began to look for the fawn. The moment he began to enter the scrub he saw buzzards, who sat in a circle around the carcass of the doe. Jody had to scare them with his bough and they flew into the adjacent trees. It was difficult to imagine that this was just yesterday when he had seen the fawn along



with its mother doe in the same place. Unable to find it, he began to look for its small hoof-prints, but perhaps last night's rain had washed them away.

Finally, Jody managed to find the fawn. It was found in a pitiable state. It was perhaps in a state of shock from the events of the last night as it was shaking when Jody found it. It made no effort to either rise or run. Jody came close to it and stretched his hands towards it and tenderly stroked its neck. The fawn became excited because of Jody's familiar touch and Jody wrapped his arms around the fawn's body. Jody wrapped his arms around the fawn's body. Jody took the fawn in his arms and started taking it home.

### **Jody gets worried of the Fawn's Reaction at the Sight of its Dead Mother**

Jody was afraid that the fawn may get out of control on seeing its dead mother's carcass lying there. Also, the legs of the fawn were surprisingly taller and it was heavy. Jody tried to balance the burden of its weight and its legs that were constantly getting entangled in the bushes. Only on reaching the intersection with the road home, did he put the fawn down to take a little rest.

### **The Fawn Comes Back to Jody**

Jody is exhilarated when he realises that the fawn willingly wished to come with him. He recalled his father telling him that if the fawn had ever been carried it would follow on its own. At first, however, the fawn does not move. So, Jody had to come back to pick it up. But Jody was really tired and so he had to put it down again. This time the fawn willingly began to follow him. A little later Jody picked it up again and carried it in his arms.

Jody reached the gate of his house and he wished to carry the fawn directly to his father's bedroom. The father was glad to see that Jody had found the fawn. At that moment, the father felt that eyes of both the fawn and Jody shone equally brightly.

### **Jody fed the Fawn**

Jody then went to the kitchen and poured some milk in the gourd to feed the fawn. The fawn refused to drink milk from the gourd. Jody dipped his fingers in the milk and offered to the fawn and the fawn sucked them greedily. Jody lowered his fingers into the gourd and directed the fawn to take milk from the gourd. The fawn refused again. It took milk as long as



Jody's fingers were immersed into the gourd. Jody was ecstatic to feel the fawn's tongue against his fingers.

## NCERT Folder

### Comprehension Check - 1

#### 1. What had happened to Jody's father?

Jody's father was bitten by a rattlesnake.

#### 2. How did the doe save Penny's life?

The doe was killed and its heart and liver were used to draw poison out of Jody's father, Penny.

#### 3. Why does Jody want to bring the fawn home?

Jody wished to bring the fawn home and look after it as he held himself and his family responsible for its pitiable situation. Its mother was killed to save the life of his father and neither the fawn nor the doe was to be blamed for this.

#### 4. How does Jody know that the fawn is a male?

Jody's father had taught him to identify the differences between a male fawn and a doe fawn. In a male fawn, the spots were all in a line, whereas in a doe-fawn the spots were in different directions over the body.

### Comprehension Check - 2

#### 1. Jody didn't want Mill-wheel with him for two reasons. What were they?

Jody did not want Mill-wheel with him because he was afraid that if he would not be able to find the fawn, then his disappointment would become visible before Mill-wheel. On the contrary, if the fawn was found, that would be a lovely and happy moment, a moment he would not like to share with anyone.

#### 2. Why was Mill-wheel afraid to leave Jody alone?

Mill-wheel was afraid that Jody might get bitten by a snake or lose his direction and get lost.



### Comprehension Check - 3

#### 1. How did Jody bring the fawn back home?

Jody had to carry the fawn in his arms to bring him back home. The fawn was bulky and his legs were long. Despite that, Jody managed to carry him back home.

#### 2. Jody was filled with emotion after he found the fawn. Can you find at least three words or phrases which show how he felt?

- (i) Jody put his arms around its body.
- (ii) He stroked its sides as gently as though the fawn were a China deer and he might break it.
- (iii) He rose slowly and lifted the fawn from the ground.

#### 3. How did the deer drink milk from the gourd?

Jody had to dip his fingers in the milk and keep them immersed in the gourd in order to feed the fawn. Gradually, the fawn began to drink milk from the gourd.

#### 4. Why didn't the fawn follow Jody up the steps as he had thought it would?

The fawn did not know how to realise its legs to climb the stairs.

### Working with the Text

#### 1. Why did Penny Baxter allow Jody to go find the fawn and raise it?

Penny Baxter allowed Jody to raise the fawn because he was obliged to the doe that was killed to save his own life. Also he could not deny Jody's wish, for he loved him dearly.

#### 2. What did Doc Wilson mean when he said, "Nothing in the world ever comes quite free"?

According to Doc Wilson, "nothing in the world comes quite free" meant that they had to pay a price for everything. Raising the dead doe's fawn could be their price for the doe's sacrifice.

#### 3. How did Jody look after the fawn, after he accepted the responsibility for doing this?

Jody sacrificed his portion of milk in order to feed the fawn. He also took care of the needs of the fawn, teaching him how to sip milk from the gourd, climbing stairs and so on.

#### 4. How does Jody's mother react when she hears that he is going to bring the fawn home? Why does she react in this way?

Jody's mother became anxious when she heard that Jody was bringing the fawn home. She becomes worried because the family could not afford sufficient food for the fawn. There was no extra milk or food to be given to the fawn.

## Working with Language

### 1. Look at these pairs of sentences.

Penny said to Jody, "Will you be back before dinner?"

Penny asked Jody if he would be back before dinner.

"How are you feeling, Pa?" asked Jody.

Jody asked his father how he was feeling.

Here are some questions in direct speech. Put them into reported speech.

- (i) Penny said, "Do you really want it son?"
- (ii) Mill-wheel said, "Will he ride back with me?"
- (iii) He said to Mill-wheel, "Do you think the fawn is still there?"
- (iv) He asked Mill-wheel, "Will you help me find him?"
- (v) He said, "Was it up here that Pa got bitten by the snake?"

**Ans.**

- (i) Penny asked his son if he really wanted it.
- (ii) Mill-wheel asked if he'll ride back with him.
- (iii) He asked Mill-wheel if he thought the fawn was still there.
- (iv) He asked Mill-wheel if he would help to find him.
- (v) He asked if it was up there that his Pa had got bitten by the snake.

### 2. Look at these two sentences.

He **tumbled** backward.

It **turned** its head.

The first sentence has an **intransitive** verb, a verb without an **object**.

The second sentence has a transitive verb. It has a direct object. We can ask: "What did it turn?" You can answer: "its head. It turned its head."

Say whether the verb in each sentence below transitive or intransitive. Ask yourself a 'what' question about the verb, as in the example above. (For some verbs, the object is a person, so ask the question 'who' instead of 'what').

- (i) Jody then **went** to the kitchen.
- (ii) The fawn **wobbled** after him.
- (iii) You **found** him.
- (iv) He **picked** it up.
- (v) He **dipped** his fingers in the milk.



- (vi) It **bleated** frantically and butted him.
- (vii) The fawn **sucked** his fingers.
- (viii) He **lowered** his fingers slowly into the milk.
- (ix) It **stamped** its small hoofs impatiently.
- (x) He **held** his fingers below the level of milk.
- (xi) The fawn **followed** him.
- (xii) He **walked** all day.
- (xiii) He **stroked** its sides.
- (xiv) The fawn **lifted** its nose.
- (xv) Its legs **hung** limply.

Ans.

- |                   |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| (i) transitive    | (ii) intransitive             |
| (iii) transitive  | (iv) transitive               |
| (v) transitive    | (vi) intransitive, transitive |
| (vii) transitive  | (viii) transitive             |
| (ix) transitive   | (x) transitive                |
| (xi) transitive   | (xii) intransitive            |
| (xiii) transitive | xiv) transitive               |
| (xv) intransitive |                               |

3. Here are some words from the lesson. Working in groups, arrange them in order in which they would appear in the dictionary. Write down some idioms and phrasal verbs connected to these words. Use the dictionary for more idioms and phrasal verbs.

close	draw	make
wonder	scrawny	parted
clearing	sweet	light
pick		

Ans.

Order in dictionary: Clearing, close, draw, light, make, parted, pick, scrawny, sweet, wonder

- |          |   |  |
|----------|---|--|
| Clearing | - | Clearing out                                   |
| Close    | - | Close up, Close quarters, Close in, Close down |
| Draw     | - | Draw back, Draw the line                       |



Light	-	Light up, In the light of , Lighten
Make	-	Make merry, Make up, make much of , Make after
Part ed	-	Part ed with
Pick	-	Pick on, Pick up, Pick out , Pick and Choose
Scrawny	-	Scrawny neck
Sweet	-	Sweet tooth, Short and sweet
Wonder	-	Work Wonders

### Speaking

**1. Do you think it is right to kill an animal to save a human life? Give reasons for your answer.**

It is morally incorrect to kill animals. However, in order to save a life, in the absence of any other alternative, it sometimes becomes imperative to kill animals. Animals have been killed for ages in order to satiate the superfluous needs of human beings.

For instance, animals are killed for consumption; their skin and hair are used for making fur, leather purses and so on. Such unwanted and pointless needs, however, could be controlled and killing of animals could be avoided.

**2. I imagine you wake up one morning and find a tiny animal on your doorstep. You want to keep it as a pet but your parents are not too happy about it. How would you persuade them to let you keep it? Discuss it in groups and present your arguments to the class.**

Last Sunday I woke up early to go to the park to play cricket with my friends. When I stepped out of the house.

I saw a small puppy hiding in the gap between the staircase and the main gate. I immediately brought it with me and wanted to keep it as a pet.

My mother, however, strongly reacted against this idea. She did not want me to touch such filthy animals or play with them.

She also put forward her discomfort in maintaining pets in the household and how it would affect her routine. My father had his concerns too.

However, I explained to them how animals are also worthy of love in return for that love they would give their unconditional devotion. A dog in the house would also take care of our safety. Finally, my parents were convinced.





## Writing

- 1. I imagine you have a new pet that keeps you busy. Write a paragraph describing your pet, the things it does and the way it makes you feel. Here are some words and phrases that you could use.**

Frisky, smart, disobedient, loyal, happy, enthusiastic, companion, sharing, friend, rolls in mud, dirties the bed, naughty, lively playful, eats up food, hides the newspaper, drinks up milk, runs away when called, floats on the water as if dead.

I just received a new pet as my birthday gift. It is a dog. I was overwhelmed to receive such a gift. It is wonderful to have pets around. They keep us happy and are a constant source of joy. Its friskiness is a guaranteed remedy for my lethargy. When I am tired or sad, it would revive lost energy in me with its playfulness. It would run away with my things and make me run after it. It would force me to be happy and smile. Every morning I take it for a morning walk. It's such a delight to see it roll in the mud, running away when called and being as naughty as it could. It is a perfect start to my day.

- 2. Human life is dependence on nature (that's why we call her Mother Nature).**

**We take everything from nature to live our lives.**

**Do we give back anything to nature?**

**(i) Write down some examples of the natural resources that we use.**

**(ii) Write a paragraph expressing your point of view regarding our relationship with nature.**

Ans. (i) it is true that human life is entirely dependent upon nature.

We can't survive without it. From the air we breathe to the food we eat, the water we drink, we constantly draw on innumerable natural resources.

Yet, we take all these resources for granted and neither do we thank Mother Nature for them, nor do we give anything to Mother Nature in return.

(ii) All that we do is pile up heaps of dirt and garbage and destroy the beauty of nature. It is essential that we become aware of our dependence on nature and take necessary steps to keep it clean and protected.





- 3. In This is Jody's Fawn, Jody's father uses a 'home remedy' for a snake bite. What should a person now do if he or she is bitten by a snake? Are all snakes poisonous? With the help of your teacher and others, find out answers to such questions. Then write a short paragraph on- what to do if a snake chooses to bite you.**

Not every snake is poisonous, but most are. Due care should be taken in case of a snake bite.

If a snake chooses to bite me, I would first make sure that the cut is crated so that the poison could ooze out of the body. Immediately after this I would head to see a doctor who could provide me with necessary first aid.

## Chapter Practice

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

- 1. Why was Penny proud of his son?**

Penny was proud of his son for keeping calm in a difficult situation.

- 2. Penny Baxter was worried about how they would feed the fawn. What does Jody suggest?**

Jody suggests that since he was now a grown up boy, his share of milk could be given to the fawn.

Also, the fawn would soon start eating leaves and acorns, so nothing much would be required to raise him.

- 3. Were Doc Wilson and Mil-wheel supportive of Jody's decision?**

Yes, both Doc Wilson and Mil-wheel were supportive of Jody's decision to bring the fawn back home.

Mil-wheel even offered help in giving Jody a ride till the location.

- 4. How does Jody manage to find his direction in the forest?**

Jody manages to find his direction by looking at the tall pines. They acted like a compass and helped in finding direction.

- 5. What were the buzzards doing in the scrub?**

The buzzards were scavenging animals. They were eating the flesh of the dead doe's carcass.



**6. In which way does Jody manage to get rid of the buzzards?**

As the buzzards came towards Jody, flapping their wings, Jody threw a bough at them and they flew into adjacent trees.

**7. What makes Jody come down on all fours?**

Jody came down on all fours to study the small hoof prints of the baby doe in the sand.

**8. Why was Jody afraid of carrying the fawn through the clearing?**

Ans. Jody was afraid that the fawn might see or smell the carcass of the doe and begin to bleat and get out of control.

**9. What was the observation of Penny when Jody brought the fawn into Penny's room?**

Penny felt that Jody's eyes were as bright as that of the fawn. Jody was brimming with happiness at having brought the fawn home.

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**Short Answer Type Questions**

**1. What excuse does Jody give to the Mill-wheel for not accompanying him?**

Jody tells the Mill-wheel that they have reached the point where they had killed the doe; the fawn should not be very far from that point and the scrub was too thick for a horse. Also, he said that it might take him a little longer to find the fawn; therefore, Mill-wheel should leave Jody and go.

**2. Describe the meeting between Jody and the fawn.**

As anticipated by Jody, the meeting between Jody and the fawn was a lovely one. Both Jody and the fawn were overwhelmed with emotions on meeting each other. Jody began to stroke the fawn tenderly and threw his arms around its body. The fawn too on recognising Jody through his scent became quite happy.

**3. Why was it difficult for Jody to carry the fawn back home?**

It was difficult for Jody to carry back the fawn because the fawn was a little heavy. Also, the legs of the fawn were fairly long and its legs hung limply, making it difficult for Jody to carry it. Jody was also afraid that the fawn might get out of control at the sight of its mother and then it would get further difficult to carry the burden.

**4. Why did Penny feel trapped on hearing Jody's request?**

Penny felt trapped on hearing Jody's request because he was left with no option other than saying yes. The doe had saved Penny's life and leaving its fawn unattended would have been



morally incorrect. Therefore, Penny was forced to comply with Jody's demand of bringing the fawn home.

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### Long Answer Type Questions

#### 1. Why did the fawn have difficulty in drinking the milk?

The fawn was perhaps used to drinking the milk by suckling its mother. It did not know how to drink milk any other way. Therefore, when Jody dipped his fingers in the milk and offered them to the fawn, the fawn felt as if it was drinking milk in the same old fashion and began to suck Jody's finger.

When Jody withdrew his fingers, it again became difficult for the fawn to take milk. Jody had to keep his fingers immersed in the gourd to make it easier for the fawn to drink milk.

#### 2. Discuss an important lesson imparted by the story.

The story "This is Jody's fawn" puts a lot of emphasis on questions of morality behind killing of animals. Therefore, both the prime characters as well as the minor characters in the story are seen dealing with questions concerning the fawn from a moral perspective.

Jody's thoughts constantly revolve around the abandoned fawn of the doe that they had to kill in order to save Penny. Penny, too, is forced to agree to Jody's demand because it would be immoral to leave the fawn starving, knowing that its mother saved his life. Ma Baxter, though treating the question practically, also gives in when Doc Wilson reminds her of the 'moral price' they must pay, for the doe saved her husband's life.

Both Doc Wilson and Mil-wheel were supportive of Jody's decision of raising the fawn. The story does not justify the unnecessary killing of animals, is not a serious issue. Thus, looking at animals with love, care and sensitivity is highlighted by the story.

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### Value Based Questions

#### 1. Why was it so important for Jody to bring the fawn home?

Jody was stirred by feelings of love and guilt and this was his reason in bringing home the fawn. The doe was killed so that its heart and liver could be used to neutralise the effect of poison in Penny's body.



Jody held himself responsible for the fate of the doe and its fawn; they had to suffer for no fault of theirs. This forced Jody to think about the fawn. Also, perhaps, Jody had met the fawn earlier. When Jody goes to look for the fawn in the scrub, the fawn is bale to recognise Jody from his smell, which is indicative of some prior meeting or relation between the two.

## 2. Describe the relationship between Jody and the fawn.

Jody and the fawn shared a unique relationship of love and compassion. Jody feels a certain degree of compassion for the fawn, whose mother was killed in order to save Penny's life. Jody realise that neither the doe nor the fawn was to blame.

He, therefore, wanted to take the responsibility of raising the fawn. The fawn, on the other hand, was bonded to Jody through a strong chain of love. It felt safe and protected in Jody's company. When it meets Jody after its mother's death, it became delirious with joy at finding that familiar touch and smell.

### Extract Based Questions

#### Extract 1

**Directions (Q.Nos.1- 6) Read th3e extract given below and answer the following questions.**

"What fawn? The fawn belonging to the doe we killed. We used the doe's liver to draw out the poison and save Pa." She gasped. 'Well for pity's sake- "Pa said it would be ungrat ef ul t o leave it t o star ve." Doc Wilson said, "That's right, Ma' am Nothing in the world comes quite free. The boy's right and his daddy's right."

#### 1. Who is 'she' in the above mentioned lines?

- (a) The doe                      (b) Ma Baxt er                      (b) Hawt hr one                      (d) Jody

**(b) Ma Baxter is the 'she' in the above mentioned lines.**

#### 2. Who is the main speaker?

- (a) The doe                      (b) Ma Baxt er                      (c) Hawt hr one                      (d) Jody

**(d) Jody is the main speaker**

#### 3. How many opinions do we get to read in the above passage?

- (a) One                      (b) Two                      (c) Three                      (d) Four

**(d) We get to read four opinions from the reading of the above passage.**



**4. What was the argument of the main speaker?**

The argument of the main speaker was to bring home the fawn of the dead doe and raise it.

**5. What does Doc Wilson mean by “Nothing in the world comes quit free”?**

“Nothing in the world comes quit free” through this phrase Doc Wilson seems to suggest the price that must be paid for the sacrifice of the doe. He seems to suggest a sense of responsibility that they owe towards the life of the sacrificed doe and its fawn.

**6. Why would it be ungrateful to leave the fawn unattended?**

It would be ungrateful to leave the fawn unattended because its mother was killed on purpose to save the life of Penny Baxter. As an expression of gratitude, the fawn must be looked after.

**Extract 2**

**Directions (Q.Nos.1- 6) Read the extract given below and answer the following questions.**

“He was afraid that it might kick and bleat at sight and smell of its mother. He skirted the clearing and pushed its way into the thicket. It was difficult to fight through with his burden. The fawn’s legs caught in the bushes and he could not lift his own with freedom. He tried to shield its face from prickling vines. Its head bobbed with its stride. His heart thumbed with the marvel of its acceptance of him.”

**1. Who is the ‘it’ in the first line of the passage?**

- (a) The doe                      (b) The fawn                      (c) Mill-wheel                      (d) Jody

**Ans.** (b) The fawn is the ‘it’ in the first line of the passage.

**2. Pick two sensory terms from the passage.**

- (a) Kick and bleat                      (b) Sight and smell  
(c) Bobbed and thumbed                      (d) Skirted and clearing

**Ans.** (b) Sight and smell are two sensory terms from the passage.

**3. While carrying the fawn back home, Jody was afraid because he taught .....**

- (a) The fawn may get out of control.                      (b) The Mill-wheel might follow him.  
(c) He might not be able to carry the fawn.                      (d) He might lose direction.

**Ans.** (a) the fawn may get out of control at the sight of its mother.



**4. What all did Jody do to make the journey home easier for the fawn?**

Jody carried the fawn on his arms, despite its weight and long legs. He avoided the direct route because the carcass of the doe lay in the middle and Jody didn't wish the fawn to see it. He also tried to shield the fawn's face from getting scratched by prickly vines.

**5. State the meaning of the expression, "marvel of its acceptance of him."**

Jody was overwhelmed by the fact that the fawn had surrendered itself to Jody. It had accepted Jody and the decisions Jody took to protect it.

This is what Jody meant by the expression, "the marvel of its acceptance of him."

**6. Make sentence with**

(a) Shield

(b) freedom

**Ans.**

(a) **Shield** The warrior carried a gleaming shield to the battlefield.

(b) **Freedom** The freedom fighters sacrificed their lives for the sake of their country.

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