



Grade VII	Department: ENGLISH	Date of submission: August 2024
WORKSHEET	Topic: Doctor Dolittle Learns Animal Language (Prose)	Note: English Notebook



Dolittle Learns Animal Language *A Story of an Animal-Doctor*

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New Words to Know

grumble: complain

rheumatism: a condition that makes one's joints and muscles stiff and painful

ridiculous: silly and unreasonable

vets: animal-doctors

doctoring: (here) treating with medicine

cracker: (here) a thin dry biscuit that is often eaten with cheese

spavins: a kind of disease that affects horses, making them lame



I. Answer these questions.

1. Who was Doctor Dolittle? What was he fond of?

Ans: Doctor Dolittle was a doctor of medicine. He was fond of animals and had all kinds of pets at home.

2. Who was Sarah Dolittle?

Ans: Sarah Dolittle was the doctor's sister.

3. Why did Doctor Dolittle's patients stop going to him?

Ans: People stopped coming to Doctor Dolittle as his home was full of animals. He paid more attention to the animals and his patients did not like this.

4. What did the Cat's-meat-Man advise Doctor Dolittle to do?

Ans: The Cat's-meat-Man advised Doctor Dolittle to start treating animals instead of human beings as he was better at understanding animals than even vets were. He believed that Doctor Dolittle would earn much more that way.



5. Who was Polynesia? How did she help Doctor Dolittle?

Ans: Polynesia was Doctor Dolittle's parrot. She taught Doctor Dolittle bird language and how animals talk with their ears, feet, tails and not just with their mouths.

6. What was wrong with the plough-horse? Why couldn't the previous doctor cure him?

Ans: The plough-horse was going blind in one eye. The previous doctor did not know horse language, so the plough-horse had not been able to tell him his trouble. Instead of understanding his problem, the old vet was treating him for spavins.

II. Answer these questions with reference to the context:



1. ***"You can make a lot of money doctoring animals."***

a) Who said this and to whom?

Ans: The Cat's-meat-Man said this to Doctor Dolittle.

b) Why did the speaker say this?

Ans: Doctor Dolittle hardly had any human patients, but the number of animals he sheltered kept growing. His savings grew smaller and smaller as he fed and looked after them. The Cat's-meat-Man had read the book on cats written by Doctor Dolittle and thought he would be an excellent animal-doctor.

2. ***'Did you know that animals can talk?'***

a) Who said this and to whom?

Ans: Polynesia, Doctor Dolittle's pet parrot, said this to Doctor Dolittle.

b) What did the speaker do after saying this?

Ans: She taught Doctor Dolittle bird language and how animals talk with their ears, feet, and tails along with the sounds they make.

3. ***'But that stupid man over the hill never even looked at my eyes.' He kept on giving me big pills.'***

a) Who said this and to whom?

Ans: The plough-horse said this to Doctor Dolittle.

b) Who was the 'silly man over the hill'?

Ans: The 'stupid man over the hill' was the town's veterinarian who had been treating the plough-horse.

c) What did the man do?

Ans: The vet had been treating the plough-horse for spavins instead of the actual ailment.

A3. Think and Answer:



1. Doctor Dolittle lost almost all his patients because of the animals in his house. Even then, he kept getting more and more pets. What does this tell you about him?

Ans: Doctor Dolittle shared a special bond with animals. The animals came to him when they needed shelter or love. They trusted him instinctively. This conveys that he was by nature a kind and caring man.

2. '... it takes a much cleverer man to be a really good animal-doctor than it does to be a good people's doctor.' Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans: One needs to be cleverer to be an animal-doctor because animals cannot use our language to tell us their problems. The vets need to have a lot of patience and an understanding of the body movements and sounds of animals to identify their problems or illnesses.

A4. CRISS CROSS PUZZLE:


