



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH- (2024-25)

QUESTION BANK

A DOG NAMED DUKE-By William D Ellis

Class: IX

Subject: ENGLISH

Summary

This story is about a young man named Chuck Hooper, who got paralysed in a car accident, and his bond with his dog Duke. Chuck Hooper was a tall and energetic man. He was a University level football player and the Zone Sales Manager in a chemical company. He got a Doberman named Duke as a pet dog much against his wife's wish. One evening on his way back home, Hooper met with an accident. He was partially paralyzed and remained in the hospital for six weeks. Duke was sent to the kennel as there was no one to look after it. Upon his return, Hooper became lonely and depressed. Duke was brought home and was glad to see his master. It could make out that everything was not the same with its master. Duke lay on the floor next to Hooper's bed all the time. Gradually, both of them got bored and Duke started pushing his master to get up. One day, Hooper tied the leash to Duke's collar and the dog got very excited. He pulled the leash and finally, Hooper had to get up from his bed. Duke pulled the leash and Hooper took a step. Gradually, as days passed by, they continued this exercise. Hooper had to make an effort to walk. Within a week they had reached the entrance of the house. The neighbours would watch this daily exercise. Hooper's wife Marcy also noticed her husband's improvement and what the dog did for him. Hooper walked from the clinic to his office alone which showed his progress. He joined the office and gradually started working full day. The walking exercise with Duke continued. Hooper was promoted as Regional Manager of the company. The Hooper's shifted house and the new neighbourhood was unaware of Chuck and Duke's story. One evening, as they had guests over, they heard the screech of brakes and Hooper thought of Duke. To their disappointment, Duke had been hit by a car. Marcy lifted it and took it to a doctor but the dog could not be saved.

A few weeks later, an order came from the main headquarters of the company. The order was like an act intended to show gratitude and respect to Duke. The order stated that Chuck or Charles Hooper was to become the Assistant National Sales Manager. He had been promoted and he felt that this was a note of thanks to Duke for his effort towards Chuck.

Theme:

The theme of the story 'A Dog Named Duke' is that 'when all seems lost, future still remains.' Strong determination, persistent hard work, patience and help from loved ones can certainly help overcome all odds, challenges, tragedies and handicaps of life. They can help change one's destiny. The relationship between Chuck Hooper and his dog Duke shows the loyalty of the pet towards the master. When all seemed bleak, the dog proved itself by making Chuck get back on

his feet after the accident, which had left him completely paralysed on the left side. He gave Chuck the stability and endurance to go on with life, even after its death.

Message: the story conveys the message that coping with the challenges of life and accepting them as they come can give one an inner strength to find solutions to the complex problems. Focusing on the solutions rather than the problems helps one to steer out of even the most difficult problems. The sublime relationship between man and the beast, is also highlighted.

Title: The title ‘A Dog Named Duke’ gives the reader the focus on the extreme devotion of pets to its human owners. It shows the supreme sacrifice of Duke, which displays his affection, loyalty and responsibility towards his master, Chuck. The entire story revolves around Duke, who helps his master in making a quick recovery, where human science couldn’t. The title pays a tribute to this sacrifice and is, therefore, an appropriate title.

A. Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow:

I. *“In 1953, Hooper was a favoured young man. A big genuine grin civilized his highly competitive nature. Standing six-foot-one, he’d played on the university football team. He was already a hard-charging zone sales manager for a chemical company. Everything was going for him.*

Then, when he was driving home one autumn twilight, a car pulled out in front of him without warning. Hooper was taken to the hospital with a subdural haemorrhage in the motor section of the brain, completely paralysing his left side”

1. What can be inferred about Chuck’s character based on the first sentence?

- a) He was introverted and shy.
- b) He was confident and outgoing.
- c) He was physically weak and frail.
- d) He was emotionally unstable and insecure.

Ans. b) He was confident and outgoing.

2. What did Hooper do for a living?

- a) Sales Manager
- b) Marketing Manager
- c) Human Resources Manager
- d) Accounts Manager

Ans. a) Sales Manager

3. Standing six-foot-one, he’d played on the university football team. Which sport did Hooper play during his university days?

- a) Baseball
- b) Volleyball
- c) Basketball
- d) Football

Ans. d) Football

4. Find a word from the extract which means “polite and well-mannered”

Ans. d) Civilized

II. *“Finally they decided to bring Duke home. Chuck said he wanted to be standing when Duke came in, so they stood him up. Duke’s nails were long from four months’ confinement, and when he spied Chuck he stood quivering like 5000 volts; then he let out a bellow, spun his long-nailed wheels, and launched himself across three metres of air. He was a 23-kilo missile of joy. He hit Chuck above the belt, causing him to fight to keep his balance.*

Those who saw it said the dog knew instantly. He never jumped on Chuck again. From that moment, he took up a post beside his master’s bed around the clock.”

1. Why did Chuck want to be standing when Duke came home?

Ans. b) He wanted to be ready for Duke’s enthusiastic greeting.

2. What does the phrase “23-kilo missile of joy” convey about Duke’s personality?

Ans. b) He is playful and energetic.

3. What does the statement “from that moment, he took up a post beside his master’s bed around the clock” reveal about Duke’s loyalty?

- a) He was only interested in being rewarded for his behavior.
- b) He felt obligated to obey Chuck’s every command.
- c) He was concerned about Chuck’s well-being and wanted to be available.
- d) He was seeking comfort and security from Chuck.

Ans. c) He was concerned about Chuck’s well-being and wanted to be available.

4. Identify the figure of speech. “stood quivering like 5000 volts”

Ans. c) Simile

III: “All they knew was that their new neighbour walked like a struggling mechanical giant and that he was always pulled by a rampageous dog.....”

- (a) Who does ‘they’ stand for?
- (b) Who walked like a struggling giant and why?
- (c) What does the word, ‘rampageous’ mean?

Ans:

- (a) Neighbours.
- (b) Chuck as he was tall but paralyzed due to the accident.
- (c) someone/something who is uncontrollably passionate- boisterously or uncontrollable.

B. Answer the following in 30 to 40 words

1) In 1953, Hooper was a favoured young man. Explain.

In 1953 Hooper was a favoured young man as he was a hard-charging zone sales manager for a chemical company, and everything was going well for him. A big genuine grin civilized his highly competitive nature. He was six-foot-one, and had played on the university football team. He was confident and competitive. He was an asset for his company.

2) They said that they would create a desk job for Hooper at the headquarters.

i) Who are ‘they’?

ii) Why did they decide to do this?

i) They refer to the personnel from the chemical company he was employed by, who visited him in the hospital.

ii) They decided to do this because he had met with a critical accident and could not walk. However, they had great regard for him for his hard working nature and hence offered him the job. They were being kind to him too considering his handicap.

3) What problems did Chuck present when he returned to the company headquarters?

When Chuck returned to the company headquarters he was more a liability than an asset as he could not move around. As he had worked so hard to get back to work it was difficult for his employers to tell him that he was not good enough, when he said he would work for one hour only.

4. Chuck was going great guns before he faced a major setback. How did his life change all of a sudden?

Ans. Chuck’s life changed dramatically and suddenly due to a serious accident. Chuck suffered a “subdural haemorrhage,” which paralyzed his left side completely. This injury led to a lot of emotional and physical distress. Chuck, previously is described as a physically active and successful individual, but after the accident he became physically dependent on others for basic tasks like walking and standing.

5. What did the men who came to see Chuck in the hospital say to him?

Ans. The men expressed their concern and acknowledged the seriousness of Chuck’s condition and its impact on his life. The men who came to see Chuck in the hospital asked him to take a year-long leave from work and told him that they would create a new desk job for him at the company headquarters.

6. When Duke saw his master on returning from the kennel, what did he do?

Ans. When Duke saw his master, he was overwhelmed with joy and excitement. He let out a loud yell, dug his claws into the ground, and launched himself in a three-meter jump, landing right on Chuck and causing him to lose his balance.

7. How did Duke’s master react and what did those standing there observe?

Ans. Chuck was still weak and recovering from his accident. He struggled to keep his balance

and nearly fell under the weight of his enthusiastic dog. Those standing there watched in astonishment, immediately realizing the depth of the bond between the dog and his master. What struck everyone the most was how Duke instantly understood the situation. He saw how his master wobbled and immediately knew that his usual playful behavior wasn't right. From that day on, Duke never jumped on Chuck again. He remained by his side constantly, offering comfort and support in his own unique way.

8. When Duke was brought inside the house after he had met with an accident, Marcy observed something. What did she notice?

Ans . When Duke was brought inside the house after his accident, Marcy noticed that the stubbornness in his eyes was gone. This observation signifies a change in Duke's demeanor. Previously, Duke might have been known for a strong, independent spirit, which could be interpreted as stubbornness. However, after the accident, his eyes lacked the stubbornness. This shift in his gaze highlights the impact of the accident.

Marcy's keen observation hints at the depth of her understanding of Duke. She is quick to notice subtle changes, revealing a level of sensitivity and empathy towards her beloved dog.

9. Duke was an extraordinary dog. What special qualities did he exhibit to justify this?

Discuss.

Ans. Duke was definitely a special dog. Duke exhibited a strong sense of empathy and compassion for Chuck. He could sense his master's pain and sadness, and he responded with comforting gestures like nuzzling and resting his head on Chuck's lap. This emotional connection was evident in their interactions, highlighting Duke's ability to understand and feel for his master beyond simply following commands.

10. Chuck and Duke complemented each other very well.

Ans. Both Chuck and Duke had great faith in each other. Duke's extraordinary nature arose from a unique combination of loyalty, intelligence, empathy, endurance, resilience, and adaptability. These qualities not only made him a beloved pet but also a vital source of support and comfort for Chuck. He serves as a reminder of the profound bond that can exist between humans and animals, one that extends beyond obedience and training and is rooted in mutual love and understanding.

11: How did Duke meet his end?

Ans: On the evening of 12, October 1957, the Hooper's had guests as Chuck Hooper had got quite well. Suddenly, they heard the screech of brakes outside. When Chuck looked outside, he was awestruck. Duke had met with a serious accident. His injuries were severer and he died later.

12: How much time did it take for Chuck to stand on his own feet?

Ans: After the accident, Chuck remained in the hospital for a month., in a critical stage. When he came home on his wheelchair, his dog Duke helped him walk back into life step by step, day by day. Chuck was discharged from the hospital on March and by mid-April he was able to stand on his feet

13: Why did Chuck visit his office? What problem did it present before all?

Ans: Chuck visited his office with an offer of spending an hour a day. But his bosses were in dilemma. They did not know what to do with a salesman who was unable to move around and could work only an hour a day.

14: What was Duke's reaction when he saw Chuck after he came back from the hospital?

Ans: When Chuck was brought home, Duke could not contain the excitement on seeing his master. In sheer joy, he jumped on his master; though he seemed to realize soon that he should not have done so as Chuck lost his balance.

15: 'It was like lighting a fuse. Duke shimmied himself U-shaped in anticipation'. Explain.

Ans: The line refers to the effects that Chuck had on the dog, Duke. One evening, Chuck hooked the leash to Duke's collar. The dog jumped in anticipation that his master would take him for a walk. The dog was excited as Chuck had showed no interest in making an effort to walk. The dog's coaxing made chuck take his first step.

16: Charles Hooper's life is a source much of inspiration for the normal people as it is for the physically challenged ones. Do you agree? What values can be learnt from his life?

Or

Discuss the message conveyed in the story, 'A Dog Named Duke'.

Ans: Life is a continuous journey; a strange mixture of sweetness, bitterness, joys and sorrows. Some are unable to stand upright in the times of adversity and crumble but those who maintain courage and endurance, successfully overcome the grief. Chuck could have chosen to remain paralysed and not respond to Duke's helpful gestures. But he kept the flame of hope kindled and with his strong will power, overcomes his handicap. The story conveys the message that coping up with the challenges of life and accepting them as they come can give one an inner strength to find solutions to the most complex problems of life.

C. Long Answer Questions- (120 words)

1. What qualities did Chuck display in the story "A dog named Duke"?

Ans. Chuck displayed several admirable qualities in the story "A Dog Named Duke":

- **Determination and resilience:** Despite facing a life-altering accident that left him partially paralyzed, Chuck demonstrated incredible determination and resilience. He refused to give up, setting ambitious goals for his recovery and actively working towards achieving them. His dedication to regaining his physical strength and returning to work is truly inspiring.
- **Love and compassion:** Chuck's love and compassion for Duke are evident throughout the story. He deeply appreciated Duke's unwavering loyalty and support, and he treated his dog with love and respect. This bond between them served as a source of strength and comfort for both Chuck and Duke.
- **Inner strength and willpower:** Chuck possessed remarkable inner strength and willpower. He endured the physical and emotional pain of his accident and the challenges of recovery without succumbing to despair. This ability to adapt and find solutions to challenges highlighted his positive attitude and problem-solving skills.
- **Gratitude and appreciation:** Chuck never took Duke's presence and unwavering support for granted. He expressed his gratitude and appreciation for his dog, recognizing the positive impact

Duke had on his life. This appreciation for his furry companion further emphasizes the strength of their bond and Chuck's kind-hearted nature.

In conclusion, Chuck emerges from the story as a remarkable individual who embodied determination, resilience, courage, optimism, love, adaptability, and gratitude. He faced adversity head-on and emerged stronger, proving that the human spirit can overcome even the most challenging circumstances.

2. Why is Charles Hooper's appointment to the position of Assistant National Sales Manager regarded as a tribute to Duke?

Ans. Charles Hooper's appointment as Assistant National Sales Manager is considered a tribute to Duke as-

- Duke played a crucial role in Hooper's recovery: After his accident, Hooper was physically and emotionally devastated. Duke's unwavering loyalty and dedication provided him with much-needed support and motivation. Through their daily walks and marathon training, Duke helped Hooper regain his physical strength and confidence.
- Duke's presence inspired Hooper to persevere: Witnessing Duke's loyalty, intelligence, and resilience inspired Hooper to overcome his own challenges. Duke's unwavering spirit served as a constant reminder that anything is possible with determination and hard work.
- Hooper's success reflects the positive impact of Duke's presence: Hooper's promotion to Assistant National Sales Manager is the culmination of his hard work and dedication. This success serves as a testament to the positive influence Duke had on his life.
- Hooper recognized Duke's contribution to his achievements: Hooper clearly understood that Duke played a significant role in his recovery and subsequent success. His appointment as Assistant National Sales Manager is a public acknowledgment of Duke's importance in his life.
- Duke embodies the qualities appreciated in a sales manager: Duke's loyalty, dedication, and resilience are qualities highly valued in a successful sales manager. Hooper's appointment could be seen as a symbolic recognition of these qualities, embodied by Duke.

3. Discuss the qualities of Duke.

Ans. Duke was an extraordinary dog who exhibited several special qualities. These qualities include:

- Loyalty and devotion: Duke's most prominent characteristic was his unwavering loyalty and devotion to his master, Chuck. He demonstrated this through his excited greeting upon Chuck's return from the kennel, even after Chuck's accident. He remained constantly by Chuck's side, offering comfort and support.
- Intelligence and understanding: Duke possessed a remarkable level of intelligence and understanding. He grasped the seriousness of Chuck's situation and adapted his behavior accordingly. He never jumped on Chuck again, demonstrating his ability to sense his master's needs and adjust his actions. This understanding went beyond mere obedience and reflected a deep emotional connection between them.
- Empathy and compassion: Duke exhibited a strong sense of empathy and compassion for Chuck. He could sense his master's pain and sadness, and he responded with comforting gestures like nuzzling and resting his head on Chuck's lap. This emotional connection was evident in their interactions, highlighting Duke's ability to understand and feel for his master beyond simply following commands.

- **Endurance and stamina:** Duke was also known for his incredible endurance and stamina. He helped Chuck train for a marathon, demonstrating his unwavering physical capabilities. This physical strength combined with his emotional understanding made him an invaluable companion for Chuck, helping him through both physical and emotional challenges.
- **Resilience and adaptability:** Duke's resilience and adaptability were remarkable. He went from enjoying the freedom of a farm to adjusting to a more confined city life after Chuck's accident. He faced the changes with grace and continued to provide comfort and support to his master. This adaptability showcases his ability to thrive in different environments while remaining focused on his primary role as Chuck's companion.

In conclusion, Duke's extraordinary nature arose from a unique combination of loyalty, intelligence, empathy, endurance, resilience, and adaptability.

4. Discuss the essence of the story "A Dog named Duke".

Ans. "A Dog Named Duke" is a heartwarming tale of resilience, hope, and the healing power of love.

In "A Dog Named Duke," we meet Chuck Hooper, a successful sales manager whose life is drastically altered by a devastating accident that leaves him partially paralyzed. Facing physical and emotional challenges, Chuck finds solace and support in his loyal dog, Duke.

Duke's unwavering devotion and intelligence prove instrumental in Chuck's recovery. Through their daily walks, Chuck regains physical strength and confidence. Despite his limitations, Chuck is determined to return to work. Recognizing his dedication, the company creates a desk job for him, allowing him to utilize his skills and contribute in a way that accommodates his physical condition.

Throughout the story, the profound bond between Chuck and Duke shines through. Their mutual love and respect are evident in their interactions, demonstrating the unique and powerful connection that can exist between humans and animals.

Q5. Discuss the symbolism of dog leash in the story.

Ans. In "A Dog Named Duke," the dog leash holds several symbolic meanings throughout the story:

- **Dependence and Support:** Initially, the leash represents Duke's dependence on Chuck. As a physically strong dog, the leash serves a practical purpose, ensuring control and safety. However, it also symbolizes the bond between them, with Chuck providing guidance and support.
- **Shared Journey and Connection:** As they walk together, the leash becomes a tangible symbol of their shared journey. It physically connects them, representing their deep bond and their dependence on each other for emotional and physical support.
- **Unconditional Love and Trust:** Ultimately, the leash transcends its physical function. It becomes a symbol of unconditional love and trust between Chuck and Duke. It represents their unwavering loyalty and willingness to support each other through any challenge.

6. How does Duke support Chuck? Is it easy for Duke to support Chuck? State examples from the chapter.

Ans. Witnessing Chuck's struggles and limitations could cause Duke to feel sadness and empathy. He might miss his active adventures and playful interactions with Chuck. Despite the limitations, Duke's loyalty and love for Chuck would remain constant. He would likely focus on

adapting his behaviour to meet Chuck's needs and provide him with companionship and emotional support.

Here are some specific ways Duke expresses his feelings:

- Nudging Chuck with his nose or licking his hand to offer comfort.
- Staying close by Chuck's side and remaining vigilant.
- Providing physical support by guiding Chuck or helping him stand.
- Playing fetch or participating in modified activities adapted to Chuck's limitations.
- Being patient and understanding with Chuck's frustrations and challenges.

7: Charles Hooper was a man of exemplary courage and perseverance. Nominate him for an award the "Hero Amongst Us".

Answer: Charles Hooper was a man of courage. He met with a serious accident and became paralyzed but then mustered courage to adapt himself to the new situation. He displayed great perseverance during his struggle for survival with the help of his dog Duke. Not a single day went effortless. There was a commendable gradual progress from moving a step on the first day of his effort to walking up to the porch, then to the fence post, to the intersection and finally to the district office. Many a times he lost his balance and fell down exhausted but he had wonderful endurance that kept him going. Hooper was a person full of determination. He set dates as objectives and with the help of Duke, could achieve the same. He had faith in himself and in his ability, no one could dare to say that a paralyzed man couldn't do the job of a moving salesman taking into account the hard work he did for a successful comeback. Hence, they created a special desk job for him. All along, his dog Duke helped him in his struggle for survival.' Undoubtedly his courage and power of endurance made him a strong contender for the award Hero Amongst Us.

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