









## Triumph of Surgery

*James Herriot*

### Characters

- Dr. Herriot
- Mrs. Pumphrey
- Tricky (Dog)

Mrs. Pumphrey was a rich and emotional lady who has a cute dog Tricky. She loved him and overfed him. Tricky had put on a lot of weight which made him lethargic. When doctor Herriot saw the dog, he was shocked. He told Mrs. Pumphrey that Tricky needs to be hospitalized as she knew that Mrs. Pumphrey would not keep the dog on a proper diet. The dog was given food at fixed intervals and soon he shed a lot of weight and became active. Mrs. Pumphrey was happy to see Tricky.

## The Thief's Story

*Ruskin Bond*

### Characters

- Hari Singh (Thief)
- Anil

Anil was a young writer. He was writing for magazines and earning money to run his life. One day Hari approached Anil with a motive to rob him. Hari asked Anil for work. Anil agreed and promised him to teach him. One month passed Hari did not perform his business. He saw a bundle of notes that Anil had brought. At night, when Anil went to sleep, Hari stole the notes and ran away, but he didn't board the train. Hari came back to Anil and went to sleep. The next day Anil woke up and handed 50 Rs. to Hari and told him that he would pay him daily. Hari understood.

## The Midnight Visitor

*Robert Arthur*

### Characters

- Ausable (Agent)
- Fowler (Writer)

Ausable informed Fowler that he might get an important document regarding missiles. Fowler Max who threatens him for the report. Ausable sensing the danger, fabricated a story which Max believed to be true. Max wanted to run away so he jumped and died.

## A Question of Trust

*Victor Canning*

### Characters

- Horace Danby
- Young Women (Lady Thief)

The story is about a thief who gets a taste of his own medicine. He is cheated by a lady thief, who claims herself to be the owner of the house. Finally, Horace ends up in prison only to repent at the way he is deceived by a person of his own profession.

## Footprints without Feet

*HG Wells*

### Characters

- Griffin (Scientist)
- Mrs. Hall

Griffin discovered a drug which could make a man invisible. One day he set his landlord's house on fire because they did not like him. He spent nights in London and stole goods and money. Then he went to a village and stole money from a clergyman's desk. A policeman was called to enquire but Griffin ran away.

## The Making of Scientist

*Robert W. Peterson*

### Characters

- Richard H. Ebright

Richard H. Ebright published theory of how cells work. He was fascinated by butterflies since childhood. He started doing experiments on how cells of butterflies divide and develop into a butterfly and won first prize at an international fair.

## The Necklace

*Guy de Maupassant*

### Characters

- Matilda
- Mrs. Forestier

Matilda and her husband belong to a poor family. One day they were invited to a dinner from the Minister of Public Instruction, but Matilda did not have a dress and jewellery to wear. She bought a dress and borrowed a necklace from Mrs. Forestier. She was happy as everyone admired her at the party. On reaching home Matilda realized she had lost the necklace. They took a loan of 40,000 francs to replace the necklace and spent 10 years to repay the loan and later came to know from Mrs. Forestier that the necklace was worth Rs. 500 francs.

## The Hack Driver

*Sinclair Lewis*

### Characters

- A Young Lawyer
- Mr. Oliver Hutkins

In this story, a young lawyer is made to serve summons instead of practicing law. He hates his job. Once he is directed by the law firm to serve summons to Mr. Oliver Hutkins who lives in New Mullon. The young lawyer goes to New Mullon and ends up with disappointments. He meets a hack driver who was very helpful to him. Later he comes to know that it was Hutkins himself the hack driver.

## Bholi

*A.K. Abbas*

### Characters

- Bholi
- Numberdar Ramlal (Bholi's Father)
- Bishamber Nath (Groom)

The story is about a village girl Sulekha called Bholi. An accident made her a backward child, damaging some parts of her brain. One day her father fixed her marriage to a man who was 50 years old. On the day of marriage, Bishamber Nath refused to marry her as Bholi had a pock-marked face. Bholi's father paid Bishamber Nath extra dowry but later Bholi refused to marry and decided that she would become a teacher and serve her parents.

## The Book that Saved the Earth

*Clair Boiko*

### Characters

- Think Tank (Ruler of Mars)
- Noddy
- Omega
- Sergeant caps (Think Tank crew members)

The story is about how Earth is saved by the attack of aliens who live on Mars just with the help of nursery rhyme books.



## The Tale of Custard, the Dragon

*Ogden Nash*

**The real test of courage is during a crisis**

Belinda owned a kitten, a mouse, a dog and a dragon. All were very brave except the dragon. Once a pirate attacked them, then the dragon fought bravely and killed him. After this incident everybody started respecting him but he still did not give up his cowardly ways.

## How to tell Wild Animals

*Carolyn Wells*

**Everyone has different characteristics that distinguish this from others**

The poet tries to distinguish different animals in a humorous manner. He is describing the various animals like Lion, Tiger, Leopard, Bear, Hyena, Crocodile and Chameleon and also their various features.

## For Anne Gregory

*William Butler Yeats*

**People fall in love with each other for their outward appearance only.**

Poet tells Anne Gregory that she has beautiful hair. But she believes that beauty fades away but inner beauty never. Everybody loves her for her appearance and not for what she is.

## The Ball Poem

*John Berryman*

**One has to face the hardships of losing in life**

A small boy lost his ball while playing with it. He was very attached to the ball thus he was grieving but he had to learn to lose things in life.

## Dust of Snow

*Robert Frost*

**Little things in life can give insight into the rules of the world**

Poet was sitting under a hamlock tree in a depressive mood when a crow shook off the dust of snow over him. This made him realize that he was just wasting time repenting when there is so much to do in life.

## Amanda

*Robin Klien*

**A good parentage is essential for a child's growth**

A young girl, Amanda, feels her life is full of struggle with no freedom. Her parents keep judging her and correcting all her mistakes, which does more harm than good as she now wishes to be an orphan so that she can be free.

## Fire and Ice

*Robert Norris*

**Growing evils in this society will soon engulf our Earth**

'Fire' stands for greed and lust whereas 'Ice' stands for hatred and coldness. The poet says that both Fire and Ice are growing so rapidly that they will soon end our world.

## Animals

*Walt Whitman*

**Animals lead a better life than humans**

According to the poet, animals are free, simple, contented, wise and serene. Whereas human beings are greedy, selfish and complicated. Thus animals lead a more peaceful and natural life than us.

## A Tiger in the Zoo

*Leslie Norris*

**Wild animals should not kept in zoo.**

The poem provides a contrast in the mood of a tiger when he is in a zoo and when he is in its natural habitat. In zoo, he feels angry and helpless and has no freedom. Whereas in forest, he is free, brave and powerful.

## The Trees

*Adrienne Rich*

**Men have destroyed nature**

Poet is voicing the ideas of a tree, how they feel trapped in man-made unnatural environment. They want to break free. Natural disasters happen for the same reason.

## Fog

*Carl Sandburg*

**We should remain hopeful and courage even in the times of despair**

The poet compares difficulties in life to fog. Both come unannounced and create a lot of trouble. But with hope, one can face everything as fog soon disappears also.

## A Letter to God

### GL Fuentes

#### Characters

- Postmaster
- Lencho

A poor farmer, whose crops got destroyed in a hailstorm, writes a letter to god asking for money. Postmaster reads the letter, collects as much money as he could and sends it. Lencho after receiving less money, wrote another letter demanding the remaining money and believed that people at post office took his money.

## Nelson Mandelas's Long Walk to Freedom

### Nelson Mandela

#### Character

- Nelson Mandela

**Theme :** How a man who was jailed for 27 years becomes the President of the state. Story of grit, determination and perseverance.

The story revolves around the theme of getting freedom after a very long struggle due to the courage of all the people who sacrificed so much for equality and peace in the country, much like India's own freedom struggle.

## The stories about flying

### Liam O'Flaherty

#### His First Flight

**Theme :** Importance of independence, self-belief and confidence in one's self.

A young seagull is left alone in his ledge as he could not fly. Maddened by hunger, he tried to fly but could not. Soon he saw his mother approaching with food. His mother stopped right in front. Out of hunger, he leapt and learned to fly, leaving behind his fears.

#### Black Aeroplane

**Theme :** Not all mysteries of life could be explained with reason.

The narrator was coming back home flying a plane. His plane is surrounded by a black cloud. He loses his way. Soon a black aeroplane comes beside his plane and guides him out of the cloud and saves him. Upon enquiry, he finds no such plane flying that night. Black aeroplane remains a mystery.

## From the diary of Anne Frank

### Anne Frank

#### Characters

- Anne Frank
- Mr. Keesing-teaching

Anne didn't have any friends, so she started writing a diary. She has narrated a story when her math teacher was annoyed with her because she was a talkative girl. He would give her punishments to write essays. Once she wrote a funny essay which made Mr. Keesing laugh and all became well between the two.

## Mijbil, the Otter

### Gavin Maxwell

**Theme :** Taking care of a pet is a lifetime commitment

The author wanted to own a pet, so he brought an otter whom he named Mijbil. Bringing him home, author realizes the amount of responsibility of owning a pet. But he took a good care of it, despite all the difficulties faced by him.

## Glimpses of India

### Tea from Assam

#### Arup Kumar Datta

The chapter deals with Assam tea and its history and significance. Two boys Rajvir and Pranjol were travelling by train in Assam. Rajvir narrates many interesting stories and legends to Pranjol, who was less excited to see tea plantations than Rajvir.

### Coorg

#### Lokesh Abrol

Coorg is a heavenly place. The people are of Greek and Arabic descent. They are known for their hospitality and bravery. Coorg also has India's largest settlement of Buddhist monks. It is also known for its adventure sports.

### A baker from Goa

#### Lucio Rodrigues

Author is narrating a story of bakers from Goa. Baking was a prosperous business and bakers from Goa never starved. Baking bread was an essential part of Goan life.

## Madam rides the Bus

### Vallik Kannan

#### Characters : Coming of age

Valli wanted to travel by a bus to a nearby town to explore the world. She saw many things travelling all by herself. She saw a cow while going to the town and saw the same cow dead while going back. This incident affected her and changed her way of looking at life.

## The Sermon at Benares

### Betty Rensharv

#### Characters

- Gautam Buddha
- Kisa Gautami

A grieving mother Kisa, comes to Gautam Buddha for help as her son is dead. She wants him to revive him. Buddha agrees on a condition that she would get a handful of mustard seeds from the house where no one lost a child, husband or parent. She finds everybody has lost one or the other and learns that death is inevitable.

## The Proposal

### Anton Chekov

**Theme :** Rich people marry for money many a times.

#### Characters

- Lomov (A Bachelor)
- Natalya (A Bachelorette)
- Chubukov

Lomov wants to marry Natalya because she is rich. They have no compatibility as they keep fighting but in the end he proposes which she finds very genuine and agrees to marry.