

## CBSE Class 10 English Language and Literature

### Revision Notes

#### Chapter 8 Mijbil the otter

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- In the beginning of 1956, the author was in Iraq. One day on the way to Basra, he casually mentioned to a friend that he would love to have an otter instead of a dog as a pet.
- A few days later, the author got an otter from his friend. Two Arabs brought it for him in a sack.
- The author stayed in Basra for a few days. Very soon the otter became very friendly with the author. It loved to play with water all the time. It played with a rubber ball also.
- The author named his otter Mijbil. He made for it a body-belt. He would take it on a lead to the bathroom. There the otter would go mad playing with water. It could even turn the tap and make the water flow at full pressure.
- After some days, the author was to come back to London. The transporting of Mijbil became a problem. British airline did not permit animals on its flights. Another airline agreed to take the animal if packed in a box
- The author made a small box for the otter. He had to face a lot of difficulty and it made him late for the plane.
- While in the plane, the otter escaped from the box. There was a lot of hue and cry. At last, the otter came back and settled on the author's knees.
- After an eventful journey, the author and his otter at last reached London where he lived in a flat.
- The otter spent most of its time playing with its toys. Sometimes the author took it out for a walk. He would take it on a lead as if it were a dog.
- Opposite to the author's flat, there was a primary school that had a low outer wall about thirty yards long. The otter would jump on to it and go running all the length of the wall.
- Different people made different guesses as to what animal it was. They would say it was a baby seal, squirrel, a walrus, a hippo, a beaver, a bear cub or even a leopard with spots.
- Very few Londoners had ever seen an otter. They were filled with surprise on seeing such a strange animal.
- One day a labourer was digging a hole in the street. Looking at the author's otter, he exclaimed, "Here, Mister, what is that supposed to be?"