



ATTINGAL EDUCATIONAL DISTRICT
STANDARD 10
ENGLISH

Read the excerpt from the story 'Adventures in a Banyan Tree' and answer the questions that follow.

The banyan tree was also the setting for what we were to call the Strange Case of the Grey Squirrel and the White rat. The white rat was grandfather's – he had bought it from the bazaar for four annas – but I would often take it with me into the roots and branches of the old tree. Banyan tree, where it soon struck up a friendship with one of the squirrels. They would go off together on little excursions among the branches. Then the squirrel started building a nest. At first she tried building it in my pockets, and when I went indoors and changed my clothes I would find straw and grass falling out. Then one day grandmother's knitting was missing. We hunted for it everywhere but without success. Next day I saw something glinting in the hole in the banyan tree. Going up to investigate, I saw that it was the end of Grandmother's steel knitting-needle. On looking further, I discovered that the hole was crammed with knitting. And amongst the wool were three baby squirrels-all of them white! Grandfather had never seen white squirrels before, and we gazed at them in wonder. We were puzzled for some time, but when I mentioned the white rat's frequent visits to the tree, Grandfather told me that the rat must be the father. Rats and squirrels were related to each other, he said, and so it was quite possible for them to have offspring- in this case, white squirrels!

1. Where did the boy find his grandmother's knitting needle?
2. From where did grandfather buy the white rats?
3. What 'surprise' was there for him in the hole?
4. Why was grandfather surprised to see the white squirrels?

5. Match the following

WORD	MEANING
glinting	Needle work created by interlacing yarn
crammed	Sparkling
puzzled	Young one
offspring	Filled
knitting	Unable to understand

6. The following sentences are from the diary of the boy in the story 'Adventures in a Banyan Tree'. They are jumbled up. Rearrange the sentences.

- was missing/ Grandmother's knitting/ yesterday
- in the hole/ something glinting/ today/ in the banyan tree/ I saw
- that the hole/ with knitting/ I discovered/ was crammed
- all of them white/ Amongst the wool/ were three baby squirrels
- for sometime/ were puzzled/ We

7. The Grandfather and the boy were really surprised at the sight of the three baby squirrels. It was a great surprise for all and the news spread across the village. The news appeared in one of the local dailies. Prepare the likely **news report**. (The following hints may help you to write the news report.)

Catchy news headline

First paragraph

- **Where did the incident happen?(place)**
- **When did the incident occur?(date)**
- **What is the incident about? (One or two sentences about the incident)**

Second paragraph

- **Detail the incident**
 - **How did the white rat reach the grandfather's house?**
 - **Friendship with the squirrel**
 - **Investigation into the missing instance of the knitting needle**
 - **The sight that surprised both the boy and the grandfather)**
 - **Concluding sentence**
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