

HANDOUT FOR MODULE -1/2
CLASS VII ENGLISH SUPPLEMENTARY READER
LESSON 8 - THE BEAR STORY

This is a story written by Axel Munthe, a Swedish born medical doctor and psychiatrist.

The story narrates the experience of a lady who kept a bear as her pet.

Once there lived a lady on the border of a big forest. She found a starving bear cub in the forest. The lady brought him home with the help of her cook.

Though he grew up to a big and strong bear, it remained a most amiable bear. He harmed neither men nor beasts. He was so friendly with the children that they used to ride on his back. They had also been found asleep in his kennel between his two paws.

The bear ate the same food as the dogs at the house - bread, porridge, potatoes, cabbages and turnips. He had a good appetite. He used to see with wistful eyes at the apples in the orchard. He had been sometimes unable to resist the temptation to climb the tree and eat some apples. He was not allowed to climb the tree and eat them. He had also been taught not to touch the beehive. He was once put on the chain for two days when he had touched the beehives. Otherwise he was chained only at night.

Meaning for new / hard words:

Manor –house : a large country house with lands

Mistress : (in the story) a female owner

Temptation: the wish to do something that you know you should not do
