

Tender Heart School
Sector 33 B, Chandigarh

Class: V

Subject: English Literature

Good Morning Students,

Let us understand the chapter "Friends and Companions" (Chapter 5) in your English Reader.

The story is a whimsical tale about how dogs became the faithful companions of humans. It begins in a time when all animals were wild, including the dog, horse, cat, cow, and sheep. They lived in the "Wet Wild Woods," along with humans, who were also wild and roamed restlessly, sleeping on tree branches. The transformation from wildness to a more civilized state begins with a woman who dislikes the wildness of Man.

The woman decides to create a home, choosing a dry cave, spreading clean sand on the floor, and lighting a fire. She uses a dried horse skin as a curtain for the cave's entrance and starts to organize their living space. That evening, she cooks a feast of wild sheep, seasoned with wild garlic and pepper, and a wild duck stuffed with wild rice and herbs. The meal ends with juicy wild cherries. The delicious aromas spread through the Wet Wild Woods, attracting the attention of the wild animals.

The man, content and full, falls asleep by the fire while the woman stays awake, combing her hair. She throws the shoulder bone of the roasted sheep into the fire and performs a magic ritual, creating the first singing magic in the world. This light and scent attract the wild animals, who gather and wonder what the fire and light mean for them.

The wild horse expresses concern, but it is the wild dog who decides to investigate, driven by the tantalizing smell. He invites the wild cat to join him, but the cat, independent and aloof, refuses, preferring to remain alone.

When the wild dog reaches the cave, he sniffs the aroma and is drawn inside. The woman, seeing him, invites him in and gives him a roasted sheep bone. The dog finds it the most delicious thing he has ever tasted and asks for more. The woman strikes a bargain with him: if he helps her man hunt during the day and guards the cave at night, she will provide him with as many bones as he wants.

The wild dog agrees, laying his head on the woman's lap and accepting her offer. The next morning, when the man wakes and sees the dog, he is surprised. The woman explains that the dog's name is no longer "Wild Dog" but "First Friend" because he has become their friend and companion, loyal and helpful. The man happily agrees, taking the dog with him for hunting.

This story illustrates the origin of the deep bond between humans and dogs, highlighting how the wild dog transformed into the faithful "First Friend," loyal and ever-present at the side of humans.