

CLASS : IX

Skimbleshanks: The Railway Cat

SUBJECT : ENGLISH LITERATURE

Extract 3

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As he supervises everything minutely so he is able to ensure that nothing goes wrong on the train.

(iv) The Cat helps the passengers to get down. He waves his long brown tail which says see you again. He is hopeful of another comfortable journey in the coming future. Thus he sees off his passengers.

(v) The cat, Skimble, is a serious and disciplined being. He wants a peaceful atmosphere and no disturbance for anyone. So he dislikes any hilarity and noisy merriment.

PASSAGE 4:

(i) 'The little den' indicates the small cabin in the train compartment. It is made cosy with a neat berth, clean folded sheet, no dust on the floor, provision of adjustable lights, excellent provision of ventilation as there are windows that can be opened and shut. There is even facility of a wash basin to wash face.

(ii) In the small cabin of each compartment called 'the little den' one can relax. Cabin is clean and allows passengers to unwind and rest. The den is absolutely clean where all the fixtures work. There is even security from pests. From the arrangement of a small basin to the device which one can ^{use to} shut the window to prevent cold wind from outside.

(iii) Skimble is a very devoted and conscientious being. He is strict and watchful. He does not let anything go wrong on the train in his charge.

(iv) Skimble, ensures that all the passengers get a clean and peaceful surrounding, timely tea of their

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and have a sound, undisturbed sleep as it takes special care of the fleas in the cabin of the passengers.

- (v) The poet personifies the cat as a hilarious and agile creature. Some of his actions like watching the passengers without a wink, drinking tea with a drop of scotch to keep himself alert and waving his tail as a goodbye gesture are quite hilarious.

PASSAGE 5.

- (i) The Night Mail was ready to depart but its incharge, Skimble, the cat, was missing. The train could not leave without the flash of his green eyes. This made the passengers and the crew restless.
- (ii) The cat performs all his duties as a supervisor very efficiently. He ensures all comforts to the passengers. He ensures that nothing goes wrong during the journey.
- (iii) Skimble keeps a strict watch on everybody i.e. the guard, the bagmen and the porters, and everything. He does not allow any chaos. He looks after the needs of each and every passenger.
- (iv) The cat ensures a peaceful atmosphere. He ensures that the passengers get every delicacy on time and according to everybody's taste and ^{have} a sound and undisturbed sleep.
- (v) The cat's watchful nature, sharp observation and dutiful attitude ranging from keeping a vigilant eye on what each passenger thinks and does and his discreet (careful) presence.

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everywhere makes us feel that he is ^{not} conceived as a mere feline (a mere character of cat family) character/creature. He reminds us of Big Brother in a dictatorship.