

A Tiger in the house

TIMOTHY, the **tiger-cub**, was **discovered** by Grandfather in the Terai jungle near Dehra.

One day, when Grandfather was **strolling** down the forest path at some distance from the rest of the party, he discovered a little tiger about eighteen inches long, **hiding** among the **intricate** roots of a banyan tree. Grandfather picked him up, and brought him home. He had the **distinction** of being the only member of the party to have **bagged** any game, dead or alive.



At first the tiger-cub, who was named Timothy by Grandmother, was **brought up** entirely on milk given to him in a **feeding-bottle** by our cook, Mahmoud. But the milk **proved too rich** for him, and he was **put on a diet** of **raw** mutton and **cod-liver oil**, to be followed later by a more **tempting** diet of pigeons and rabbits.

Timothy was provided with two **companions**—Toto, the monkey, who was **bold** enough to pull the young tiger by the Tiger in the House tail, and then **climb up** the **curtains** if Timothy lost his **temper**; and a small **mongrel** puppy, found on the road by Grandfather.

At first Timothy appeared to be quite afraid of the puppy, and **darted** back with a **spring** if it came too near. He would make **absurd dashes** at it with his large **forepaws**, and then **retreat** to a **ridiculously** safe distance. Finally, he allowed the puppy to **crawl** on his back and rest there!

One of Timothy's favourite **amusements** was to **stalk** anyone who would play with him, and so, when I came to live with Grandfather, I became one of the tiger's favourites. With a **crafty** look in his **glittering** eyes, and his body **crouching**, he would **creep** closer and closer to me, suddenly making a dash for my feet, rolling over on his back and kicking with **delight**, and **pretending** to bite my **ankles**.

He was by this time the size of a full-grown **retriever**, and when I took him out for walks, people on the road would **give us a wide berth**. When he pulled hard on his chain, I had difficulty in keeping up with him. His favourite place in the house was the drawing-room, and he would make himself comfortable on the long sofa, **reclining** there with great **dignity**, and **snarling** at anybody who tried to **get him off**.

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Timothy had clean habits, and would **scrub** his face with his paws exactly like a cat. He slept at night in the cook's quarters, and was always delighted at being **let out** by him in the morning.

(To be continued.....)

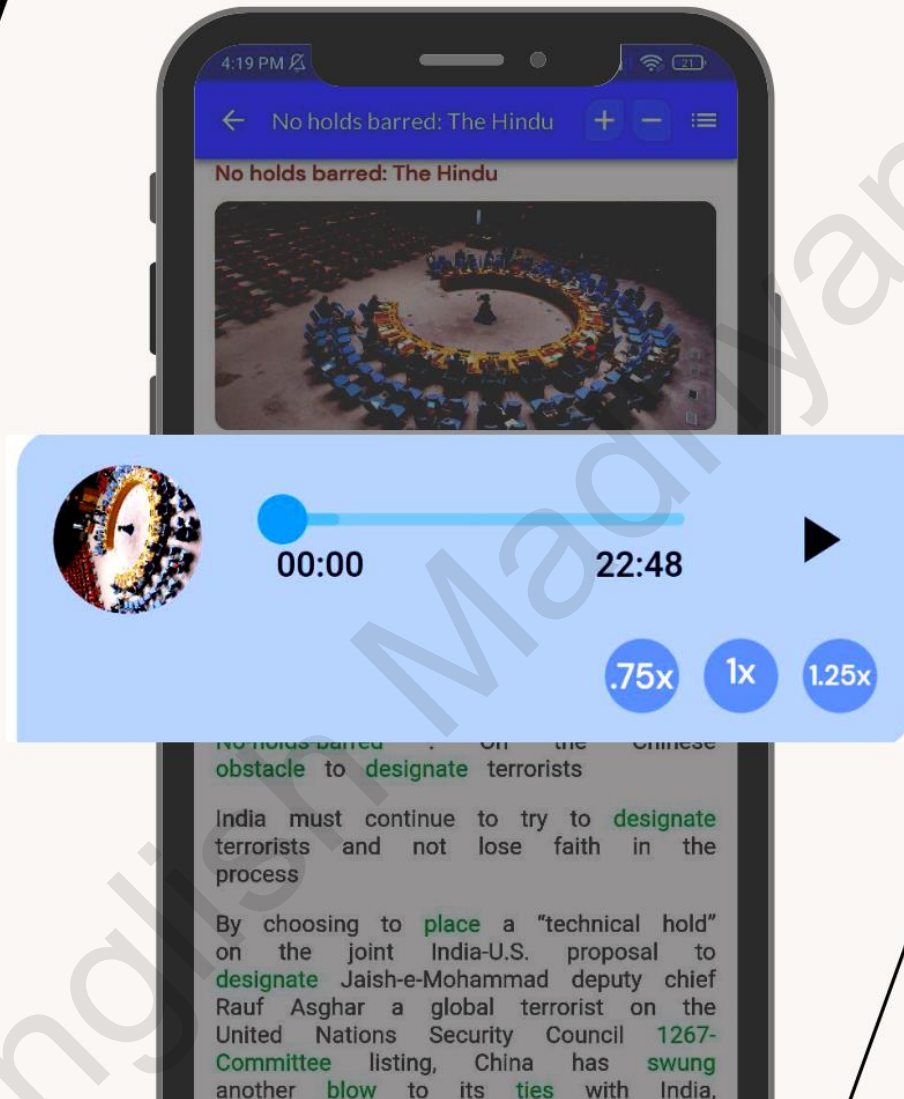
Vocabulary

1. **Tiger-cub** (noun) – A young tiger बाघ शावक
2. **Discover** (verb) – Find, uncover, unearth, locate, detect खोजना
3. **Stroll** (verb) – Walk, amble, saunter, wander, टहलना
4. **Hide** (verb) – prevent (something) from being seen. छुपना
5. **Intricate** (adjective) – having many small parts or details put together in a complicated way उलझा हुआ, उलझावदार
6. **Distinction** (noun) – the quality of being excellent; fame for what you have achieved उत्कृष्टता
7. **Bag** (verb) – to win sth, especially a prize जीतना
8. **Bring up** (phrasal verb) – nurture, parent, raise, rear पालन-पोषण करना
9. **Feeding-bottle** (noun) – a plastic bottle with a special rubber top through which a baby can suck milk or other liquids. दूध पिलाने की बोतल
10. **Proved too rich for** (phrase) – in this context 'Rich' means that the milk was too calorific - contained too much fat and sugar, and the tiger's digestive system couldn't deal with it.
11. **Put on a diet** (phrase) – eating only particular kinds of food in order to lose weight
12. **Raw** (adjective) – uncooked, fresh कच्चा
13. **Cod-liver oil** (noun) – a type of fish oil supplement
14. **Tempting** (adjective) – Alluring, enticing, attractive, appealing, inviting प्रलोभक
15. **Companion** (noun) – friend, buddy, mate, chum, colleague साथी
16. **Bold** (adjective) – courageous, brave, valiant, fearless, unafraid निडर/ बहादुर
17. **Climb up** (phrasal verb) – to go up, or to go towards the top of something पर चढ़ना
18. **Curtain** (noun) – a piece of cloth that is hung to cover a window परदा
19. **Temper** (noun) – anger, fury, rage, annoyance, vexation गुस्सा
20. **Mongrel** (noun) – a dog that is a mixture of different breeds
21. **Dart** (verb) – Move or run somewhere suddenly or rapidly. अचानक कहीं भागना
22. **Spring** (noun) – a quick sudden jump upward or forward कूदकर

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23. **Absurd** (adjective) – ridiculous, silly, strange, illogical, irrational, ludicrous
हास्यास्पद
24. **Dash** (noun) – an act of going somewhere suddenly and/or quickly फुरती
25. **Forepaw** (noun) – either of the front paws of a four-footed animal. आगे का पंजा
26. **Retreat** (verb) – to withdraw, retire, or draw back, पीछे हटना
27. **Ridiculously** (adverb) – in a very silly or unreasonable way हास्यास्पद रूप से
28. **Crawl** (verb) – move slowly; creep, grovel, crawling, cower रेंगना
29. **Amusement** (noun) – something that makes time pass pleasantly; an entertainment मनोरंजन
30. **Stalk** (verb) – follow, pursue पीछा करना
31. **Crafty** (adjective) – cunning, sneaky, sly, shrewd, wily, astute, deceitful चालाक
32. **Glittering** (adjective) – impressive, splendid, brilliant शानदार
33. **Crouch** (verb) – to bend your legs and body so that you are close to the ground सिकुड़ कर बैठना
34. **Creep** (verb) – to slowly and quietly move closer to without being noticed रेंगना
35. **Delight** (noun) – great pleasure आनंद
36. **Pretend** (verb) – to behave in a particular way, in order to make other people believe something that is not true ढोंग करना
37. **Ankle** (noun) – the joint connecting the foot to the leg टखना
38. **Retriever** (noun) – a large dog used in hunting to bring back birds that have been shot
39. **Give somebody a wide berth** (phrase) – to not go too near someone or something सुरक्षित दूरी बनाए रखना
40. **Recline** (verb) – to sit or lie in a relaxed way, with your body leaning backward
41. **Dignity** (noun) – The quality of being worthy of esteem or respect गरिमा
42. **Snarl** (at) (verb) – To show the teeth and make a deep angry noise in the throat दांत दिखाना
43. **Get someone off** (phrasal verb) – to remove someone or something from someone, oneself, or something नीचे उतारना
44. **Scrub** (verb) – Clean, rub, polish, cleanse, wash साफ़ करना
45. **Let out** (phrasal verb) – To allow someone or an animal to leave a particular place बाहर निकालना

Audio Explanation



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