

Chapter Review

- 'Mijbil the Otter' is an extract from 'Ring of Bright Water' by Gavin Maxwell. It describes his pet otter, Mijbil, and the journey from Basra (Iraq) to London.
- Maxwell got the otter from the marshes of Iraq and took him to London by air. Before leaving, Mijbil was kept in a box and became restless, so Maxwell was worried about his comfort.
- Mijbil was kept in a box with a hole. At the airport he had to travel in the aeroplane. Maxwell gave him a bath at the hotel in a tub.
- Maxwell noticed that Mijbil loved water and liked to play with water in a bathtub. He had to be kept in a room with the bath tap on.
- In the plane Mijbil escaped from the box and made a mess by chewing the bag. He crawled into the lady's lap next to Maxwell. She screamed at the otter, thinking it was a rat.
- Maxwell caught him and put him back in the box. After the journey he reached London, where he lived in a flat with Maxwell and became very attached.
- Otter's habits: Mijbil was playful and loved to play with a rubber ball. He wanted water always, hence Maxwell bought a big tub.
- The extract shows the author's love for animals and his patience with Mijbil. It also shows how animals have a personality of their own.

Key Terms

Otter – A water animal with a long body and webbed feet.

Basra – A city in Iraq.

Marsh – Wet, soft land.

Restless – Unable to rest or stay still.

Smitten – Strongly affected by love.

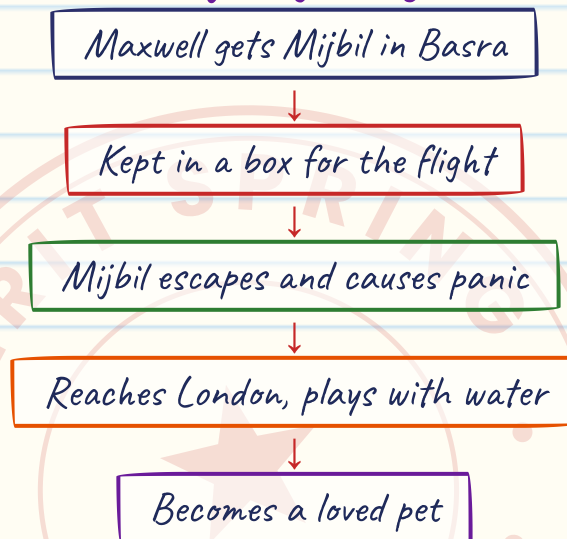
Aeroplane – A flying vehicle.

Mischievous – Playful and causing small trouble.

Tub – A large bath container.

Diagrams / Flowcharts

Mijbil's Journey



About the Author

- Gavin Maxwell (1914-1969) was a Scottish naturalist and writer. 'Ring of Bright Water' was his bestselling book about otters.

Theme

- Love of animals and respect for their nature. A pet needs patience, freedom and care.
- Humour: the incidents on the plane and in the hotel show a light-hearted tone.

Textbook Exercise Questions

Q.1 Where did Maxwell get the otter from?

Ans. He got the otter from the marshes of southern Iraq, near Basra.

Q.2 Why did Maxwell keep Mijbil in a box?

Ans. For the aeroplane journey, he needed to keep the otter safe and under control, so he kept him in a small box with air holes.

Q.3 What problem occurred on the plane?

Ans. Mijbil escaped from the box, made a mess and climbed onto a lady, causing panic until Maxwell caught him.

Q.4 How did Mijbil show his love of water?

Ans. He played in the tub, splashed the water and kept the bathroom tap running.

Q.5 What did Maxwell do to keep him happy in London?

Ans. He gave him a rubber ball to play with and a tub of water to swim in.

Board Exam Questions (Important)

Q.1 Describe the relationship between Maxwell and Mijbil.

Ans. Maxwell treated Mijbil with love and patience. Mijbil became attached to him. The relationship shows how animals and humans can become friends.

Q.2 What does the lesson teach us about pets? (Value-based)

Ans. Pets are living beings with their own needs. We must care for them with patience, give them space and treat them kindly.