

**ANNUAL PREPARATORY PROGRAMME FOR ENHANCEMENT IN
ACADEMICS AND REVISION (APPEAR)
CLASS XII, ENGLISH CORE - 301
MODULE - XVIII (THE TIGER KING)**

Module Details	
Subject Name	English Core
Course Name	Annual Preparatory Programme for Enhancement in Academics and Revision (APPEAR) in English for Class XII
Module Name/Title	The Tiger King
Module Id	levt_20201
Pre-requisite	Students should have <ul style="list-style-type: none"> awareness about wildlife and conservation and an understanding of the colonial India.
Learning Outcomes	After carefully reading this module and doing the suggested activities, you will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read and understand the story The Tiger King, analyse and appreciate themes like transience of Life and Power and protection of wildlife, understand the genre of satire and, relate the story to the key contemporary issues.
Keywords	Power, tiger, British, hunting and toy

2. Development Team

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INTRODUCTION

There are two pictures/photographs taken from National Geographic, look at the pictures and answer the following questions:

Picture 1



Source: <https://blog.nationalgeographic.org/2014/03/10/a-concise-history-of-tiger-hunting-in-india/>

Picture 2



Source: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2019/11/best-animal-photos-of-2019/>

1. Which picture do you like and why?

- a) Picture 1
- b) Picture 2

2. Which picture describes words like love, affection, and coexistence?

- a) Picture 1
- b) Picture 2
- c) None

3. Words like poaching, hunting, and killing matches to which picture?

- a) Picture 1
- b) Picture 2
- c) None

The Tiger King is a story written by Ramaswamy Krishnamurthy popularly known as Kalki. Kalki is his pen name. He is a Tamil writer, journalist and Indian independence activist who was born on 9 September 1899 and died on 5 December 1954. This story is a satire on the pride and stubbornness of the people who are in control or are in power. This story takes us back to the days when India was under the rule of the kings and queens who in turn were under colonial rule. These rulers were autocratic and eccentric. They were indifferent or negligent towards their public duties and responsibilities and devoted less time for the public's welfare. They rather invested their time in foolish pursuits and flouted and twisted rules and orders to fulfill their selfish interests.



READING

Click on the link and read the story.

<https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php?lev1=2-8>

COMPREHENSION OF THE TEXT

The Tiger King is a story about the Maharaja of Pratibandapuram. He was identified by various names such as His Highness Jamedar - General, Khiledar-Major, Sata Vyaghra Samhari, Maharajadhiraja Visva Bhuvana Samrat, Sir Jilani Jung Jung Bahadur, M.A.D., A.C.T.C., or C.R.C.K., but popularly known as the Tiger King. The story further reveals why he came to be known as the Tiger King. When the Tiger King was just ten days old, the astrologers predicted that “The prince was born in the hour of the Bull. The Bull and the Tiger are enemies, therefore, death comes from the Tiger”. After the prediction that a tiger will kill him, the ten days old prince said “Let tigers beware!”.

The Tiger king grew up like any royal child - drinking white cow’s milk, watching English movies, and being looked after by an English nanny. At twenty when he was crowned the king, people started talking about the prophecy. When the matter reached Maharaja's ears, he decided to hunt down tigers in his estate on the pretext of self-defense. When he killed the first tiger, he called for the state astrologer. The state Astrologer warned him “Your majesty may kill ninety-nine tigers in exactly the same manner. But must be very careful with the hundredth tiger”. Listening to the warning, the Tiger King pledged to attend all the state affairs after killing hundred tigers.

The Tiger king started killing one tiger after another in his state of Pratibandapuram and put a ban on tiger killing in his estate. Except him nobody in his state could even throw a stone on a tiger. Once a high-ranking British official visited his state and wished for tiger hunting. His wish was declined. He further requested for a photograph with a tiger killed by the Tiger King. This too was declined, instead fifty diamond rings were sent to the official’s wife expecting she would keep one or two out of fifty. The official’s wife kept all the rings costing three lakh rupees and sent

thanks to the King. Though he had to bear great economic loss, but his state was saved. This incident in the story highlights how imperialism or colonial powers exploited the native country.

Approximately in ten years, he killed seventy tigers and thereafter no tiger was found in Pratibandapuram. Hence, he decided to marry a girl from a royal state that has most numbers of tigers to complete his target. After marriage, he kept visiting his in-laws and killing tigers. Finally, he managed to kill ninety-nine tigers and was restless to kill hundredth. Soon the news of a tiger nearby a village reached the king but no tiger was found. In his rage, the king called for his Dewan and ordered him to double the land tax forthwith. Dewan cautioned the king that “The people will become discontented. Then our state too will fall a prey to the Indian National Congress.” To this the king answered “In that case you may resign from your post,”.

The Dewan was now convinced that if the tiger is not found soon, the results could be catastrophic. So, he started to look out for tigers and found an old tiger in ‘People’s Park in Madras’. At night, Dewan visited ‘People’s Park in Madras’, brought the old tiger, and placed it in the forest where the king was hunting. Next day the tiger walked straight in the presence of the king and the king finally shot the tiger and left with triumph “I have killed the hundredth tiger. My vow has been fulfilled,”. Unfortunately, the bullet missed the tiger, but due to the fear the tiger fainted. When the hunters with the king found out that the tiger was alive, they decided to kill the tiger and take it to the king.

Soon on king’s son’s third birthday, the king decided to buy a present for his son. He went to a toy shop and bought a wooden tiger. The wooden tiger was unskillfully crafted, its surface was rough, tiny slivers of wood stood up like quills all over it. One of those slivers pierced the Maharaja’s right hand. The next day, infection flared in the Maharaja’s right hand. In four days, it developed into a suppurating sore which spread all over the arm. Three famous surgeons were brought in from Madras, an operation took place, and the king was announced to be dead. Thus, the hundredth tiger became the cause of the king’s death and took its final revenge.

Activity-1

1. Who is the Tiger King?

- a) Khiledar-Major
- b) Krishnadevaraya
- c) His Highness Jamedar
- d) C.R.C.R

2. What quality best describe the king?

- a) Brave like a tiger
- b) A benevolent ruler
- c) A tyrant
- d) None

3. After killing seventy tigers, what did the Maharaja do to complete his target?

- a) He went to the forest
- b) Dewan bought new tiger
- c) Maharaja married in a state with the greatest number of tigers.
- d) All the above

4. Why does he get the name The Tiger King?

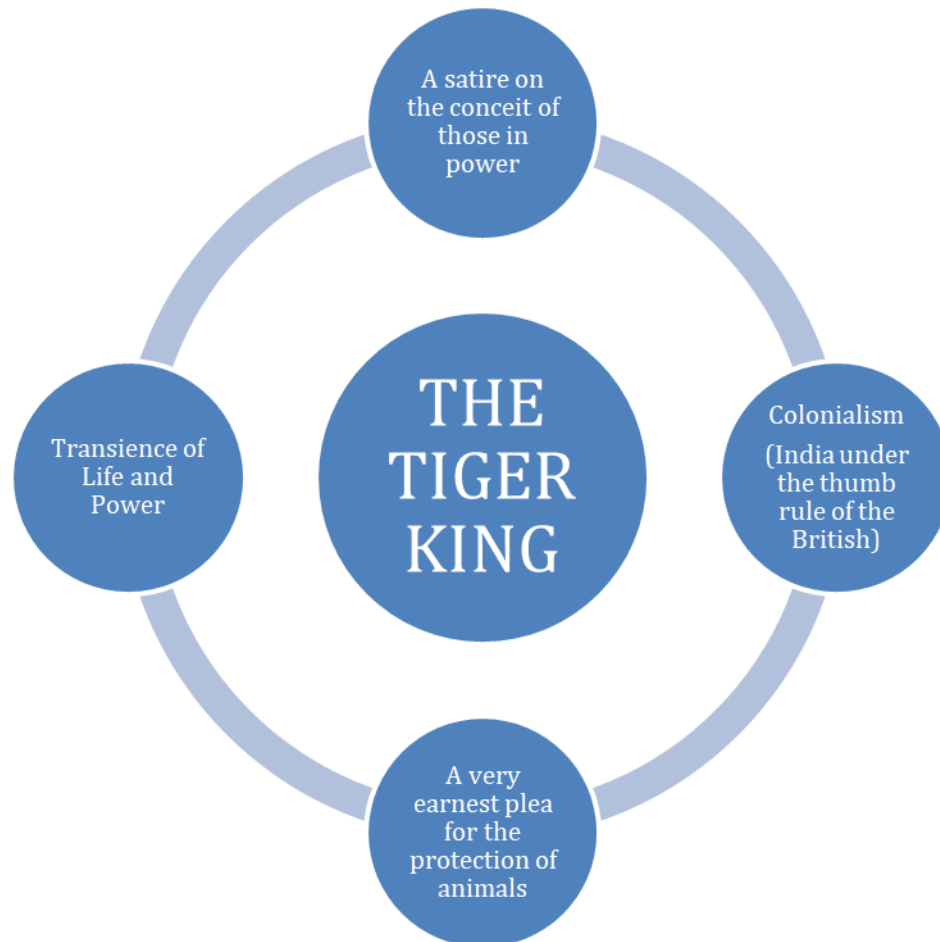
- a) He was as brave as tiger
- b) It was predicted that he would be killed by a tiger.
- c) It was a popular name.
- d) He was born in the hour of bull.

5. What birthday gift did the Maharaja present to his 3 years old son?

- a) A toy
- b) Gold coins
- c) Forests
- d) A toy tiger

THEMES

The Tiger King is a story about the transience of life and power. It is a satire on the conceit of those people in power. The author takes us back to the colonial period, when Indian autocratic and eccentric kings were under the British rule. It is also an earnest plea for the protection of animals.



LET US SUM UP

This story is a satire on the pride and selfish nature of the individuals who are in charge or are in force. This story takes us to the days when India was under British rule and these Indian rulers were absolutist and erratic. They were apathetic or careless towards their public obligations and duties. They rather spend their time in stupid pursuits and mocked rules and regulations to satisfy their ego.

ANSWERS

Activity-1

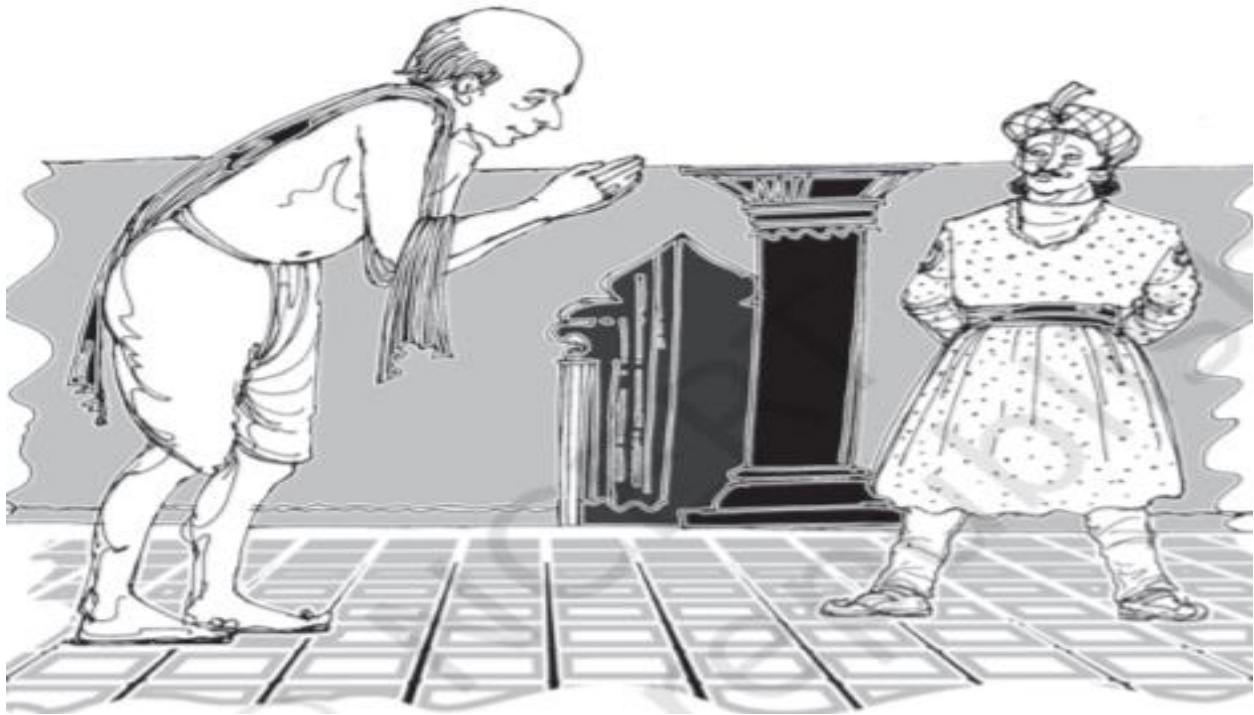
1. a
2. c
3. c
4. b
5. d

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PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Imagine yourself to be the Maharaja and guess what might have happened to the astrologer after the maharaja killed the last tiger (though in reality the Tiger was alive)?



2. What is the author's indirect comment on subjecting innocent animals to the willfulness of human beings?