

Original.

We always think of cats in the feminine, I suppose because they usually have kittens. And certainly the mother cat is the most lovable and human of all, a picture of softness and comfort and content. But—apart from her lovely motherhood, the cat has many feminine virtues. She contrasts with the dog, whose virtues are masculine. Perhaps in

nothing is she more feminine than in her preference for the reality of thing over its appearance. The dog pretends much more than the cat. He pretends he does not see the big dog across the road, or that he wants to fight; all the time he is dying for his mistress to call him off. He pretends he hates the stranger ringing the bell, and threatens him with all sorts of noises he never means to turn into action. The dog behaves courageously because he dislikes being laughed at, and thus gets credit for more courage than he really has; ~~he~~ bluffs to keep the enemy away. The cat does not put on an appearance of ferocity; she is not ashamed to show her fear and runs off when she can, reserving her courage till the last step in feminine desperation. Dog and man behave bravely because they think they ought, cat and woman because they must. Dog and man display their courage, but are bravest when they cannot reach the enemy. Neither cat nor woman makes her courage conspicuous; she keeps it for where danger is greatest.

(250 words)

this nature, we should aim at clearness of thought and express our views in such a convincing manner that they appeal to the reader for their sincerity and freshness of approach.

### SOME SOLVED EXAMPLES

Study carefully the following examples:-

#### EXAMPLE 1

Portia asked if the scales were ready to weigh the flesh; and she said to the Jew, "You must have some surgeon by, lest he bleed to death." Shylock whose whole intent was that Antonio should bleed to death, said, "It is not so named in the bond." Portia replied, "It is not so named in the bond, but what of that? It were good you did so much charity." To all this the answer Shylock would make was, "I cannot find it; it is not in the bond." "Then," said Portia, "a pound of Antonio's flesh is thine. The law allows it and the Court awards it. And you may cut this flesh from off his breast. The law allows it and the Court awards it." Again Shylock exclaimed, 'O wise and upright judge! A Daniel is come to judgment!' and then he sharpened his long knife again and looking eagerly on Antonio, he said, 'Come, prepare!' Tarry a little, Jew, said Portia, 'there is something else. The bond here gives you no drop of blood; the words expressly are *a pound of flesh*. If in the cutting of the pound of flesh you shed one drop of Christian blood, your land and goods are by the law to be confiscated to the State of Venice.'

After reading the above passage, answer the following questions in your own words:-

- (1) Suggest a suitable title for the above passage.
- (2) Why did Shylock persistently refuse to have a surgeon by?
- (3) What was Shylock's motive in claiming a pound of Antonio's flesh?
- (4) What was the award of the Court?
- (5) How did Portia save Antonio's life?

## The cats and dogs

The cat's qualities are feminine and the dogs are of masculine. The cat prefers reality of things over its appearance. The dogs pretend themselves brave and courageous. In contrast, the cat is not hypocritical in nature. Dogs and men resemble each others and show their strength when their enemy is inaccessible. But the women and the cat wait for the right moment to show strength and weakness.

## Comprehension

### Question

Suggest a suitable title for the above passage.

### Answer

A Denial is come to judgement.

Question

Why did shylacke persistently refused to have a surgeon by?

Answer

He deliberately ~~wanted~~ refused to have a surgeon near by because he wanted to take his the life of Antonio. He tried to conceal his wicked intentions.

Question

What was the shylackes motive in claiming a pound of Antonio's flesh?

Answer

The sole aim of shylackes motive ~~in claiming a~~ pound of Antonio's flesh ~~was to~~ put an end to his life.

Question

What was the award of court?

Answer

declared that the shylock is entitled to have a pound of Antonio's flesh. He could cut his flesh off from his breast.

### Question

How did portia save Antonio's life?

### Answer

Portia wisely agreed that by the bonds shylock was not allowed by the terms of bond to shed a single drop of blood while cutting the flesh. And this was not possible. In this way portia saved the life of Antonio.