

UNIT 15

SIMBA: SIMBA

(Adapted from *Going Solo* by Aroald Dahl)

Students Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the unit, students will be able to:

- answer the comprehension questions.
- narrate the story.
- complete the cloze passage.
- punctuate the given paragraph.
- recognize and rectify faulty sentences.
- share and discuss their problems.

Pre-reading:

- Have you ever had a thrilling experience in your life?

The District Officer in Tabora was called Robert Sanford, a man in his early thirties who had a wife and three very small children, a boy of six, a girl of four and a baby.

That evening, I was sitting on the veranda having a drink with Robert Sanford and his wife Mary, while two of the children were playing out on the grass in front of the house under the watchful eye of their black nurse. The heat of the day was becoming less intense as the sun went down.

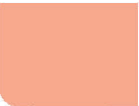
“So what's been going on in Dar-us-Salaam?” Robert Sanford asked me. “Anything exciting?”

I told him about the poisonous black **mamba** and my servant Salimu.

When I had finished, Mary Sanford said, “We had a spitting cobra near our back door not long ago. Robert shot it.”

“Do you like this sort of life?” I said to Robert Sanford, changing the topic. “I love the freedom,” he said. “I administer about two thousand square miles of territory and I can go where I want and do more or less as I please. That part of it is marvellous.”





We sat there watching the sun go down behind the flat brown plain that was covered with thorn trees, and we could see the sinister vultures waiting like feathered undertakers for death to come along and give them something to work on.

Suddenly, the voice of a man yelling in Swahili exploded into the quiet of the evening. It was my boy, Mdisho. “Bwana! Bwana!” he was yelling from somewhere behind the house. “Simba, bwana! Simba! Simba!”

Simba is Swahili for lion. All three of us leapt to our feet, and the next moment Mdisho came tearing round the corner of the house yelling at us in Swahili, “Come quick, bwana! Come quick! A huge lion is eating the wife of the cook!” Robert Sanford flew into the house and came out again in five seconds flat holding a powerful rifle and ramming a cartridge into the breech. “Get those children indoors!” he shouted to his wife as he ran down off the veranda with me behind him.

Mdisho was dancing about and pointing towards the back of the house and yelling in Swahili, “The lion has taken the wife of the cook and the lion is eating her and the cook is chasing the lion and trying to save his wife!”

“Where is it?” Robert Sanford shouted, but he had no need to ask, for we very quickly spotted the massive sandy-coloured lion not more than eighty or ninety yards off and trotting away from the house. He had a fine bushy collar of fur around his neck, and in his jaws he was holding the wife of the cook. The lion had the woman by the waist so that her head and arms hung down on one side and her legs on the other, and I could see that she was wearing a red and white spotted dress. The lion, so startlingly close, was loping away from us in the calmest possible manner with a slow, long-striding, springy lope. Behind the lion, not more than the length of a tennis court behind, ran the cook himself in his white cotton robe, running most bravely and waving his arms like a whirlwind, leaping, clapping his hands, screaming, shouting “Simba! Simba! Let go of my wife! Let go of my wife!”

It was a scene of great tragedy and comedy both mixed up together, and now Robert Sanford was running full speed after the cook who was running after the lion. He was holding his rifle in both hands and shouting to the cook, “Pingo! Pingo! Get out of the way, Pingo! Lie down on the ground so I can shoot the Simba! You are in my way! You are in my way, Pingo!”

But the cook ignored him and kept on running, and the lion ignored everybody, not altering his pace at all but continuing to lope along with slow springy strides and with the head held high and carrying the woman proudly in his jaws, rather like dog who is trotting off with a good bone.

Both the cook and Robert Sanford were travelling faster than the lion who



really didn't seem to care about his pursuers at all. And as for me, I didn't know what to do to help them so I ran after Robert Sanford. It was an awkward situation because there was no way that Robert Sanford could take a shot at the lion without risking a hit on the cook's wife, let alone on the cook himself who was still right in his line of fire.

The lion was heading for one of those hillocks that was densely covered with jungle trees and we all knew that once he got in there, we would never be able to get at him. The incredibly brave cook was actually catching up on the lion and was now not more than ten yards behind him, and Robert Sanford was thirty or forty yards behind the cook. "Ayee!" the cook was shouting, "Simba! Simba! Simba! Let go my wife! I am coming after you, Simba!"

Then Robert Sanford stopped and raised his rifle and took aim, and I thought surely he is not risking a shot at a moving lion when it's got a woman in its jaws. There was an almighty crack as the big gun went off and I saw a spurt of dust just ahead of the lion. The lion stopped dead and turned his head, still holding the woman in his jaws. He saw the arm-waving shouting cook and he saw Robert Sanford and he saw me and he had certainly heard the rifle shot and seen the spurt of dust. He must have thought an army was coming after him because instantaneously, he dropped the cook's wife on the ground and broke for cover. I have never seen anything accelerate so fast from a standing start. With great leaping bounding strides he was in among the jungle trees on the hillock before Robert Sanford could ram another cartridge into his gun.

The cook reached the wife first, then Robert Sanford, then me. I couldn't believe what I saw. I was certain that the grip of those terrible jaws would have **ripped** the woman's waist and stomach almost into two, but there she was sitting up on the ground and smiling at the cook, her husband.

"Where are you hurt?" shouted Robert Sanford, rushing up.

The cook's wife looked up at him and kept smiling, and she said in Swahili, "That old lion he couldn't scare me. I just lay there in his mouth pretending I was dead and he didn't even bite through my clothes. "She stood up and smoothed down her red and white spotted dress which was wet with the lion's saliva, and the cook embraced her and the two of them did a little dance of joy in the twilight out there on the great brown African plain.

Robert Sanford just stood there gaping at the cook's wife.

Reading and Thinking Skills:

1. Answer the following questions.

- i) Why did Robert Sanford order the cook to be down?
- ii) Why did the lion leave the Cook's wife unharmed?
- iii) Why was it a scene of great tragedy and comedy?
- iv) Why did the cook's wife pretend to be dead in the lion's mouth?
- v) What is meant by "sinister vultures waiting like feathered undertakers for death"?
- vi) What is meant by 'stopped dead'?
- vii) Why did the cook's wife remain unhurt?
- viii) Why was it an awkward situation?
- ix) What does 'Simba' mean in Swahili?
- x) How many people were chasing the lion?

2. Choose the correct answer.

- i) Robert Sanford had
 - (a) four small children.
 - (b) no children.
 - (c) three small children.
 - (d) big children.
- ii) Swahili is a language widely used by
 - (a) a tribe in Africa.
 - (b) aborigines.
 - (c) the Chinese.
 - (d) the Dutch.
- iii) The lion had taken away
 - (a) the baby of the cook.
 - (b) the cook's wife.
 - (c) Robert Sanford's wife.
 - (d) the wife of the narrator of the story.
- iv) The wife of the cook was
 - (a) wounded by the lion.
 - (b) killed by the lion.
 - (c) unhurt and unharmed.
 - (d) very scared.
- v) Simba in Swahili language means
 - (a) crocodile.
 - (b) lion.
 - (c) cobra.
 - (d) boa.

3. Mark the sentences True or False.

- i) A huge lion ate up the wife of the cook. (T / F)
- ii) The cook's wife had a strange escape from a huge lion. (T / F)
- iii) The grip of the terrible jaws of the lion had wounded the cook's wife. (T / F)
- iv) The lion was killed by Robert Sanford. (T / F)

- v) The cook was overjoyed when he found his wife safe and sound. (T / F)
- vi) Mdisho said, “ A big wolf is eating the wife of the cook”. (T / F)
- vii) The lion had a fine bushy collar of fur around his neck. (T / F)
- viii) The lion, so startlingly close, was loping away from us in the calmest possible manner. (T / F)
- ix) It was a great scene of tragedy and sadness. (T / F)
- x) The incredibly brave cook was not actually catching up on the lion. (T / F)

Critical Thinking:

- Why was Robert Sanford unable to shoot the lion?

Writing Skills:

- Narrate the story in your own words.**
- Fill the blank spaces with the given words.**

shot *still* *fire* *awkward* *faster*
pursuers *way* *risking* *care*

Cloze Passages

A cloze passage is a passage with blank spaces in it. The blank spaces occur at irregular intervals.

Both the cook and Robert Sanford were travelling _____ than the lion who really didn't seem to _____ about his _____ at all. It was an _____ situation because there was no _____ that Robert Sanford could take a _____ at the lion without _____ but on the cook's wife, let alone on the lion himself who was _____ right in his line of _____.

Activity:

Use the following words in your sentences making the meaning clear.

- i) awkward ii) incredible iii) massive
 iv) charging v) pretend

Research Project

Write a research report on the following question.

- Which olympic events were practised in ancient Greece?

Grammar:

Activities:

1. Write down the correct form of the verb in each sentence.

- i) The heat of the day (become) less intense as the sun (go) down.
- ii) The cook and Robert Sanford (travel) faster than the lion.
- iii) The cook (reach) the wife first, then Robert Sanford, then me.
- iv) The cook's wife looked up at him and (keep) smiling.
- v) The lion (has) a fine bushy collar of fur around his neck, and in his jaws he was (hold) the wife of the cook.

2. Punctuate the following paragraph.

it was a scene of great tragedy and comedy both mixed up together and now robert sanford was running full speed after the cook who was running after the lion he was holding his rifle in both hands and shouting to the cook pingo. pingo get out of the way pingo lie down on the ground so I can shoot the simba you are in my way you are in my way pingo.

3. Correct the following faulty sentences.

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|---|-----------------------|
| i) I saw five times that film. | (word order) |
| ii) An accident occurred. | (spelling) |
| iii) what did he say. | (punctuation mistake) |
| iv) I am studying english. | (punctuation mistake) |
| v) Jabbar entered to the university. | (punctuation) |
| vi) I saw a beauty picture. | (word form) |
| vii) He is here since March. | (verb tense) |
| viii) I went to bed. Because I was tired. | (incomplete sentence) |
| ix) He is a M.A. | (article) |
| x) He got on the taxi. | (word choice) |

Oral Communication Skills:

Group-Activity

Divide the class into different groups asking students to discuss the problems they are facing in their college.

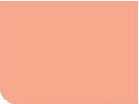
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1. Answer the following questions.

- i) Why had some aid-drops in the mountain area been slipped?
- ii) Name three qualities of the 'Quake Jumpers' team which enable them to do their job efficiently.
- iii) Who was ready to help the nightingale?
- iv) How had the nightingale spent his day?
- v) Why were some people reluctant to leave Pompeii?
- vi) Why was Pompeii skipped away from the world's memory till 1860?
- vii) How was the patriot being taken to the scaffold?
- viii) How was he treated in the beginning?
- ix) Why did the cook's wife remain unhurt?
- x) Why was it an awkward situation?

2. Choose the correct option.

- i) A powerful earthquake hit Quetta in:
 - (a) 2001.
 - (b) 1906.
 - (c) 1935.
 - (d) 1978.
- ii) The authorities were faced with a humanitarian crisis of
 - (a) titanic proportions.
 - (b) minor proportions.
 - (c) small proportions.
 - (d) expensive proportions.
- iii) A glow-worm offered _____ to the nightingale.
 - (a) food
 - (b) water
 - (c) advice
 - (d) help
- iv) The glow-worm said, "I shall shed light if"
 - (a) the street is dark."
 - (b) the jungle is dark".

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- (c) the way is dark.”
(d) the area is dark.”
- v) Pompeii was situated near
(a) Paris.
(b) Rome.
(c) London.
(d) Tokyo.
- vi) The height of Mount Vesuvius is
(a) about 2000 meters.
(b) 5000 meters.
(c) 1500 meters.
(d) 100 meters.
- vii) When the patriot was unpopular, how did the people react?
(a) Whoever had mind, hit him with stones.
(b) They showed no reaction.
(c) They still loved him.
(d) They scattered roses on his way.
- viii) A year ago, he was given
(a) a grand welcome on his arrival.
(b) a grand welcome on his departure.
(c) a grand welcome on his marriage.
(d) a grand welcome at his office.
- ix) The lion had taken away
(a) the baby of the cook.
(b) the cook's wife.
(c) Robert Sanford's wife.
(d) the wife of the narrator of the story.
- x) The wife of the cook was
(a) wounded by the lion.
(b) killed by the lion.
(c) unhurt and unharmed.
(d) very scared.

3. Mark the sentences as true or false.

- i) 'Graffiti' means writings or drawings on a surface in a public place. (T / F)
- ii) A huge lion ate up the wife of the cook. (T / F)

- iii) The cook was overjoyed when he found his wife safe and sound. (T / F)
- iv) Pompeii was a prosperous and thriving city (T / F)
- v) Mdisho said, "A big wolf is eating the wife of the cook". (T / F)
- vi) The re-discovery of Pompeii does not tell anything about the city. (T / F)
- vii) The volcano had not erupted in more than a thousand years. (T / F)
- viii) A hot cloud of lightweight ash poured down the side of the plains. (T / F)
- ix) John set as his goal the total recovery of the vanished city Pompeii. (T / F)
- x) The lion had a fine bushy collar of fur around his neck. (T / F)

Critical Thinking:

- Why should we be kind and helpful to others?

4. Change the narration of the following sentences.

- i) He said to me, "What is your name?"
- ii) Akmal said to me, "When did you arrive in Sibi?"
- iii) She said, "Will you help me?"
- iv) He said, "What a quaint bridge!"
- v) I asked him, "Where are you going?"
- vi) The judge said, "Call the first witness."
- vii) My father said to me, "Your English is excellent."
- viii) My friend says, "How are you feeling?"
- ix) The gardener said, "Do not pluck the flowers."
- x) Bilal said, "I am sick."

5. Fill in the blanks with the suitable modal auxiliary verbs.

- i) I _____ speak English very well.
- ii) He _____ not attend the meeting yesterday.
- iii) We _____ respect our teachers and parents.
- iv) _____ you please open the door?
- v) My clothes are dirty. I _____ wash them.

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- vi) Why _____ you talk like this to your teacher?
 - vii) People _____ drive more carefully.
 - viii) I wonder If you _____ help me.
 - ix) They _____ not come today.
 - x) I _____ go to supermarket today.

6. Change the following sentences into future continuous tense.

- i) I will work hard.
- ii) They will help the poor and needy people.
- iii) We will attend the class regularly.
- iv) She will work on computer.
- v) You will attend IT classes.
- vi) They will not cheat him.
- vii) The teacher will explain the structure to us.
- viii) The students will ask questions about information technology.
- ix) They will not sleep in the park.
- x) We will cooperate with one another.

7. Write down the correct form of the verb in each sentence.

- i) The heat of the day (become) less intense as the sun (go) down.
- ii) The cook and Robert Sanford (travel) faster than the lion.
- iii) The cook (reach) the wife first. Then Robert Sanford, then me.
- iv) The cook's wife looked up at him and (keep) smiling.
- v) The lion (has) a fine bushy collar of fur around his neck, and in his jaws he was (hold) the wife of the cook.