

## Chapter – 3

### Gillu

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#### Discovery of an injured squirrel

- The narrator found an injured baby squirrel in her verandah.
- Two crows were poking their beaks and injuring it further at the flowerpots.

#### Narrator's care and sympathy for the injured squirrel

- The narrator brought the injured squirrel to her room.
- She cleaned its wounds and applied penicillin.
- She tried to feed it milk.
- The squirrel couldn't suck the milk.
- Somehow she was able to put a drop of milk in its mouth.
- Her nursing made the baby squirrel hale and hearty.

#### Naming of the Squirrel

- The narrator names the baby squirrel 'Gillu'.
- With a human name, Gillu became a member of her family.

#### Gillu's habit

- Whenever Gillu was hungry, he would produce the sound 'chik-chik'.
- His favourite food was kaju.
- When he did not get kaju for several days, he would refuse other food items and throw them down the swing.
- The only instance when he refused kaju was when the narrator was hospitalised because of an accident.
- He refused to eat anything during her absence.

#### Bonding between Gillu and the narrator

- Gillu was very close to the narrator.
- No other pet would eat from her plate like Gillu.
- When the narrator was hospitalised, Gillu missed the narrator.
- He refused to eat anything during her absence.
- Gillu would gently stroke her forehead and hair.

#### Consideration for Gillu's freedom

- The narrator often noticed Gillu sitting by the window and peering at the world outside.
- She realised Gillu's need for freedom.
- She made a small opening in a corner of the wiremesh.

- This enabled him to have the thrill to be liberated.

#### **Gillu's life coming to an end**

- Squirrels have a life span of barely two years.
- Two years had passed in Gillu's life.
- The narrator realised that Gillu's life was coming to an end:
  - His claws were getting old.
  - She switched on the heater for warming him.
- Gillu died the next morning.

#### **After Gillu's death**

- His swing was taken off the hook.
- The opening made for him was closed.
- He was buried under the Sonjuhi creeper for two reasons:
  - he loved the creeper most
  - the narrator believed that Gillu will blossom like a tiny Juhi flower.

#### **Questions**

**Now, on the basis of your understanding of this poem try to answer the following questions:**

1. What did the narrator do with the wounded squirrel?
2. How did the narrator make the tiny baby squirrel hale and hearty?
3. How did Gillu sustain wounds?
4. How would Gillu inform that he was hungry?
5. What was Gillu's favourite food?
6. What is the life span of squirrel?