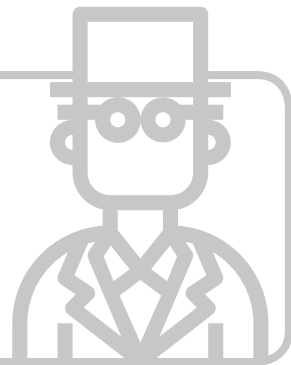


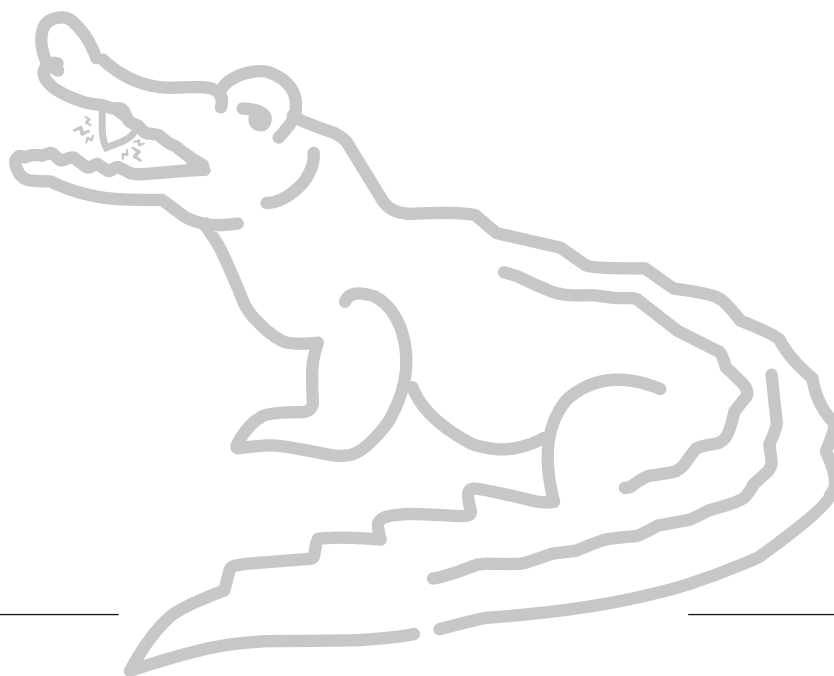
# Doctor Dolittle extract

By Hugh Lofting



Once when he was sitting on his garden wall, smoking a pipe in the evening, an Italian organ-grinder came round with a monkey on a string. The Doctor saw at once that the monkey's collar was too tight and that he was dirty and unhappy. So he took the monkey away from the Italian, gave the man a shilling and told him to go. The organ-grinder got awfully angry and said that he wanted to keep the monkey. But the Doctor told him that if he didn't go away he would punch him on the nose. John Dolittle was a strong man, though he wasn't very tall. So the Italian went away saying rude things and the monkey stayed with Doctor Dolittle and had a good home. The other animals in the house called him "Chee-Chee"—which is a common word in monkey-language, meaning "ginger."

And another time, when the circus came to Puddleby, the crocodile who had a bad toothache escaped at night and came into the Doctor's garden. The Doctor talked to him in crocodile-language and took him into the house and made his tooth better. But when the crocodile saw what a nice house it was—with all the different places for the different kinds of animals—he too wanted to live with the Doctor. He asked couldn't he sleep in the fish-pond at the bottom of the garden, if he promised not to eat the fish. When the circus-men came to take him back he got so wild and savage that he frightened them away. But to every one in the house he was always as gentle as a kitten.



continued...

# Doctor Dolittle

By Hugh Lofting

But now the old ladies grew afraid to send their lap-dogs to Doctor Dolittle because of the crocodile; and the farmers wouldn't believe that he would not eat the lambs and sick calves they brought to be cured. So the Doctor went to the crocodile and told him he must go back to his circus. But he wept such big tears, and begged so hard to be allowed to stay, that the Doctor hadn't the heart to turn him out.

So then the Doctor's sister came to him and said, "John, you must send that creature away. Now the farmers and the old ladies are afraid to send their animals to you—just as we were beginning to be well off again. Now we shall be ruined entirely. This is the last straw. I will no longer be housekeeper for you if you don't send away that alligator."

"It isn't an alligator," said the Doctor—"it's a crocodile."

"I don't care what you call it," said his sister. "It's a nasty thing to find under the bed. I won't have it in the house."

"But he has promised me," the Doctor answered, "that he will not bite any one. He doesn't like the circus; and I haven't the money to send him back to Africa where he comes from. He minds his own business and on the whole is very well behaved. Don't be so fussy."

"I tell you I will not have him around," said Sarah. "He eats the linoleum. If you don't send him away this minute I'll—I'll go and get married!"

"All right," said the Doctor, "go and get married. It can't be helped." And he took down his hat and went out into the garden.

So Sarah Dolittle packed up her things and went off; and the Doctor was left all alone with his animal family.

And very soon he was poorer than he had ever been before. With all these mouths to fill, and the house to look after, and no one to do the mending, and no money coming in to pay the butcher's bill, things began to look very difficult. But the Doctor didn't worry at all.

"Money is a nuisance," he used to say. "We'd all be much better off if it had never been invented. What does money matter, so long as we are happy?"

# Doctor Dolittle

By Hugh Lofting

## Answer the questions below



1. For what reasons do the farmers and old ladies no longer want to send their animals to Dr Dolittle?

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2. Look at the paragraph that begins '**And another time...**'.

**Find** and **copy** a phrase that shows that the crocodile is the opposite of 'wild and savage'?

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3. Sarah Dolittle says 'This is the last straw.' What does this tell us about her feelings about the Doctor's actions?

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4. Dr Dolittle's opinion of the crocodile differs from that of the farmers, old ladies and his own sister. Give **two** reasons why his opinion is different.

1. 

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2. 

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continued...

# Doctor Dolittle

By Hugh Lofting

5. The doctor says '*What does money matter, so long as we are happy?*' How do we know that he thinks it is important that the animals are happy? Give **two** pieces of evidence from the text.

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6. The crocodile '*begged*' Dr Dolittle to let him stay. Which **one** of the following words has the same meaning and could have been used instead?

borrowed

pleaded

wanted

forced

7. Which of the following are reasons why Dr Dolittle is poor? **Tick** the correct options.

He has spent money on his sister.

He must spend money to feed all the animals.

He has paid to send the crocodile back to Africa.

He gave the men from the circus a shilling.

He has lost his customers because of the crocodile.

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continued...

# Doctor Dolittle

By Hugh Lofting

8. What would Sarah Dolittle say about her brother if someone asked her? Use evidence from the extract to support your answer.

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# Doctor Dolittle

By Hugh Lofting

## Answers

1. Why do the farmers and old ladies no longer want to send their animals to Dr Dolittle?  
(2b – retrieve information)

**The ladies are afraid of the crocodile and the farmers think it will eat their lambs and calves.**

2. Look at the paragraph that begins 'And another time...'.  
Find and copy a phrase that shows that the crocodile is the opposite of 'wild and savage'?  
(2a – meaning of vocabulary)

**As gentle as a kitten.**

3. Sarah Dolittle says 'This is the last straw.' What does this tell us about her feelings about the Doctor's actions?  
(2g – explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases)

**Answers must refer to the fact that she is upset/angry/annoyed and that there have been other things that the Doctor has done that she has disagreed with.**

**Pupil Response: Sarah Dolittle is annoyed at the arrival of the crocodile and this is one of several things the Doctor has done which have made her upset.**

4. Dr Dolittle's opinion of the crocodile differs from that of the farmers, old ladies and his own sister. Give two reasons why his opinion is different.  
(2h – make comparisons)

**Any two from:**

**He believes the crocodile's promise not to bite anyone.**

**He feels sorry for the crocodile because it doesn't like the circus.**

**He says it is very well-behaved.**

**He says the crocodile minds its own business.**

**He cannot bare to turn him out.**

continued...

# Doctor Dolittle

By Hugh Lofting

5. The doctor says 'What does money matter, so long as we are happy?' How do we know that he thinks it is important that the animals are happy? Give two pieces of evidence from the text.

*(2d – explain and justify inferences)*

**Any two from:**

**He takes the monkey because its collar is too tight, it is dirty and unhappy.**

**He pays money for the monkey even though he is poor because it is unhappy.**

**He makes animals better when they are ill.**

**He cures the crocodile's toothache.**

**He lets the crocodile stay because it is unhappy at the circus.**

6. The crocodile 'begged' Dr Dolittle to let him stay. Which one of the following words has the same meaning and could have been used instead?

*(2a – meaning of vocabulary)*

**pleaded**

7. Which of the following are reasons why Dr Dolittle is poor? Tick the correct options.

*(2b – retrieve information)*

**He must spend money to feed all the animals.**

**He has lost his customers because of the crocodile.**

8. What would Sarah Dolittle say about her brother if someone asked her? Use evidence from the extract to support your answer.

*(2e – predict)*

**Accept answers that include reference to at least two from:**

**his disregard for money**

**keeping dangerous animals**

**his actions making him lose customers**

**his caring nature**

**Pupil Response: Sarah would say that her brother does not care about her or his customers because he kept the crocodile even though it stopped the farmers and ladies coming and it was eating the linoleum. He is not bothered that he has no money. All he cares about is the animals being happy.**