

## *The Parrot Who Wouldn't Talk*

### *Word-Meanings*

1. parakeet - a small bird of the parrot family
2. insisted - said firmly
3. beady - like a small bead, round and bright
4. lunged - attacked forward
5. railing - a fence of metal or wooden bars
6. unselfishly - caring more for others
7. squawk - the loud, rough sound of a parrot
8. shrieked - spoke in a loud, high pitched voice
9. after all - in the end
10. turned ruby red - when the face turns red in shame
11. making faces - tease someone by twisting the face

### II. *Fill in the Blanks:-*

1. The writer of the story is *Ruskin Bond* who grew up in *Musoorie*.
2. The speaker's aunt, Aunt Ruby *insisted* on keeping a parrot as a pet.

3. She wanted it to talk but the bird just refused and would look at her *angrily*.
4. One day the parrot *lunged* forward and pushed off her spectacles when she asked it for a kiss.
5. Aunt Ruby did not like the bird anymore and would *make faces* at it.
6. The bird *escaped* from the cage but it became a regular visitor to the writer's house.

### *Question-Answers*

Q1. *How do parrots and parakeets learn to talk?*

Ans. Parrots and parakeets learn to talk when they hear words and phrases spoken repeatedly in front of them.

Q2. *Where did Aunt Ruby get the parrot from?*

Ans. Aunt Ruby got the parrot from a bird-catcher who visited the houses.

Q3. *Why did Aunt Ruby stopped liking the parrot?*

Ans. Aunt Ruby stopped liking the parrot because he would not kiss her but instead attacked her and pushed her spectacles off her nose.

**Q4. How did Aunt Ruby treat the parrot?**

Ans. Aunt Ruby made faces at the parrot and would say, “You’re useless. Can’t talk, can’t sing, can’t dance!”

**Q5. How did the speaker treat the parrot?**

Ans. The speaker was put in charge of feeding the parrot. The parrot would happily eat green chillies, pieces of papaya, pieces of ripe tomatoes and slices of mango.

**Q6. What made Aunt Ruby turn ‘ruby-red’?**

Ans. Aunt Ruby turned ‘ruby-red’ when the parrot shrieked out the same mean words at her which she used to say to the bird.