

Genius of Mozart soothes Suma the elephant's heart

Suma, a 45-year-old elephant and long-time resident of the Zagreb Zoo, was bereaved and inconsolable after her pachyderm* partner of 10 years died of cancer.

Until she heard Mozart.

"Suma became very depressed after her room-mate Patna died in early May," the head of Zagreb Zoo, Mladen Anic, said. "She was refusing to eat, became uncommunicative and showed all the signs of a serious depression."

Then, by sheer accident, Suma's keepers discovered that the healing power of Mozart extends to the animal kingdom too.

Earlier this month, the zoo organised a concert of classical music just opposite Suma's dwelling, Anic explained. At the sight of five musicians preparing themselves to start a concert, Suma became very nervous and aggressive, peppering the intruders with little stones that she blew out of her trunk.

"But as soon as the concert started what we saw was really fascinating. Suma leaned against the fence, closed her eyes and listened without moving the entire concert," he said. The elephant especially adores Mozart, Anic said, but is also partial to the strains of Vivaldi and Bach.

**This word means an animal with thick skin*

Story from www.elephant-news.com

Read this story from the Internet.

Task 1

A summary is a short description of something without details

Summarise the story in your own words. Use no more than 50 words!

Vocabulary

bereaved	inconsolable	room-mate
depressed	uncommunicative	long-time
healing	dwelling	concert
aggressive	intruders	adores

The words in the box are used in the story of the elephant. Can you use them in the sentences below?

1. The little girl was silent and _____ after the accident
2. I share my apartment with a _____
3. My brother _____ football
4. The _____ broke the window, came into the house and stole some money
5. I've got tickets for the next U2 _____
6. The _____ parents were broken-hearted
7. The cut on my hand is _____
8. Police in England have a problem dealing with the _____ behaviour of football fans
9. Bad weather makes us all feel _____
10. The zoo keeper goes into the lion's _____ to feed them
11. He is a _____ believer in socialism
12. The little boy was _____ when he lost his teddy bear

Internet Story

MODULE: Reading & Comprehension

LEVEL: R 2 Upper

Time: 60 Minutes	Focus: Summarising a story
Class organisation: Individual, plenary for discussion.	Type of activity: Comprehension and writing
FETAC: Reading for understanding	

For this activity you need...

1 worksheet per learner
Monolingual dictionaries
(optional)

N.B.

In Class Procedure at a Glance

Read the story.

Discuss details.

Identify the main points.

Decide what details to omit.

Write a summary.

Use the vocabulary in a different context (gap fill).