Class-X

English

First Flight

Poem - 4



Corolyn Wells

How to Tell Wild Animals

Part - 2

Neha Rajvanshi

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SUMMARY

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The poem "How to Tell Wild Animals" revolves round the individual identities of various wild animals. These identities are wild in the sense that these wild animals hunt other animals in a dangerous manner. These revelations of these wild animals' hunting ways are described humorously. We come to know how these wild animals behave with their individual features. The poem educates the readers about these wild animals.

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Literary Devices Used in the Poem

1. **Rhyme Scheme :** Rhyme scheme of the poem is 'ABABCC'.



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2. Alliteration : Repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginning of the word.

Example :

roaming — round

he — has

when — walking

be — bear

novice — nonplus

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3. Poetic License : The freedom to ignore the usual rules.

Example :

Lept

Dyin

4. Onomatopoeia : Sound words.

Example :

Roar

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5. Inversion : Reversal of the normal order of the words and phrases in a sentence.

Example :

And if there should to you advance,

A novice might nonplus.



You should advance

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6. **Oxymoron :** Use of two oposite words together.

Example :

A noble wild beast.

7. **Repetition :** To repeat any word or phrase.

Example :

Lep and lep

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8. Enjambment : Continuity of the same sentence in the next line.

Example :

If ever you should go by chance
To jungles in the east;

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How to Tell Wild Animals
[Comprehension]

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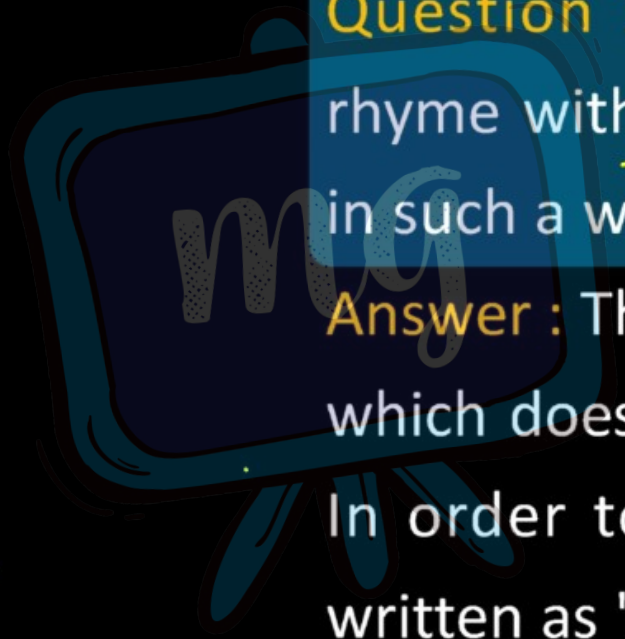

Question 1. Does 'dyin' really rhyme with lion'? Can you say it in such a way that it does ?

Answer : The Actual word is dying which does not rhyme with lion. In order to create rhyme, it is written as 'dyin' in the poem.

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Question 2. How does the poet suggest that you identify the lion and the tiger? When can you do so, according to him?

Answer: The poet differentiates between the two in the following manner:

He says that if the beast of yellow brown colour roars out so fiercely that you may die out of fear, than this is an Asian Lion.

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Whereas, if the animal has black stripes on yellow background of the skin, he looks noble and he attacks to kill you then it is a Bengal Tiger.

According to the poet we can identify them when we get the chance to go to the jungle.

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Question 3. Do you think the words 'lept' and 'lep' in the third stanza are spelt correctly? Why does the poet spell them like this?

Answer : The words 'lept' and 'lep' have not been spelled correctly. It is a poetic device known as poetic license which is used by the poet to lay emphasis on the action of the leopard.

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Question 4. Look at the line 'A novice might nonplus'. How would you write this 'correctly'? Why is the poet's incorrect' line better in the ? poem?

Answer : The correct structure of the sentence is a novice might be nonplussed'. The poet's 'incorrect' line is better in the poem as it creates rhyme in the poem. Nonphus rhymes with thus.

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Question 5. How does the poet create humour in the poem?

Answer : The poet creates humour by describing various beasts of prey differently. It is by the use of words and emotions. The bengal tiger is never 'noble' in his heart. The leopard kills his prey in moments. His crying won't save him. The bear's hug is never loving. The hyena never smiles happily.

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Question 6. How does the poet describe the bear?

Answer : The poet describes the bear in a humorous way. As soon as the bear comes near a human being, he embraces him tightly. Then he starts to make his hug tight. He starts squeezing one to death. He will touch him lovingly. That's why, it is known 'a bear's hug'.

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Question 7. How does the poet describe the crocodile and the hyena?

Answer : The poet describes the crocodile and the hyena humorously. The crocodile has tears in his eyes when it comes near its victim. The hyena looks having happy smiles on its face. But this is not so. The hyena's face is made like this.



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Question 8. Describe how the chameleon is described in the poem.

Answer : The chameleon is small. It is like a lizard. It has almost all the features of a lizard. However, it is different in colour. It has no ears. There is no single wing on its body. It is always found on a tree. It can not be seen because it can change its colour according to the background.

