

**CLASS – 10**

**ENGLISH**

**First Flight**

**Poem : A Tiger in the Zoo**

**Part – 1**

**Explanation**

**KOMAL JETWANI**



# OVERVIEW



1. Style, Theme, Setting ,and Tone

2. Freedom v/s Captivity

3. Yearning for Freedom

4. Concrete Prison

5. Natural v/s Artificial Habitat

# COMPETENCY BASED LEARNING



1

Empathy and Compassion

2

Responsibility Towards  
Nature

3

No Intervention with  
Nature



George Leslie Norris (21 May 1921 –  
6 April 2006)

- A prize-winning Welsh poet and short story writer.
- **A Tiger in the Zoo** is known as one of his best works.

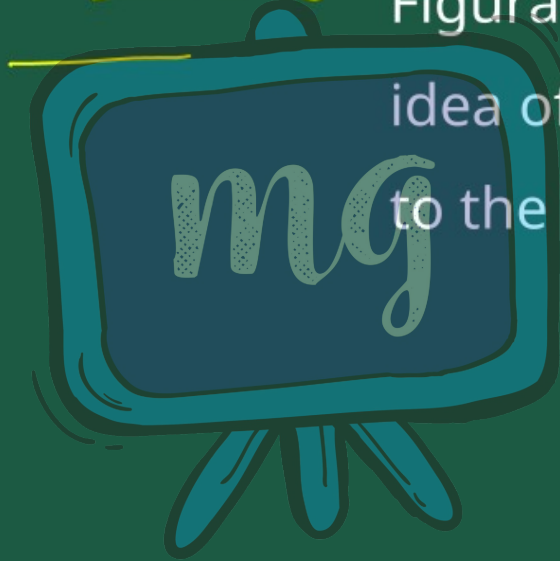
## STYLE

1. 'A Tiger in the Zoo' by Leslie Norris consists of five stanzas each having four lines in it.
2. The Rhyme scheme of the poem is ABCB and it goes on like this. As an example, "cage" rhymes with "rage" in the first stanza.

ABCB

mq

3. The use of imagery and  
Figurative language makes the  
idea of the poet more compelling  
to the readers.



## SHORT THEME

1. Tamed vs Wild, Wilderness and Natural beauty
2. Loss of Natural Instincts due to forced confinement
3. Natural Habitat v/s Artificial Surroundings
4. Sensitivity towards nature and its living beings
5. Humans to take an Inclusive approach

## SETTING:

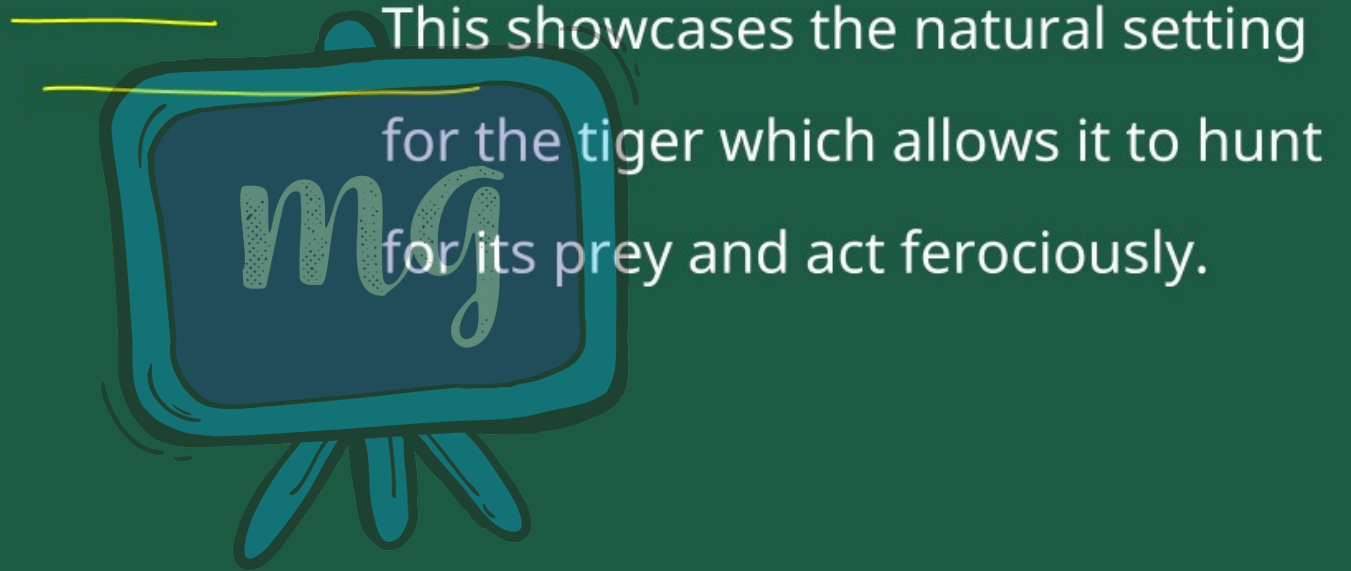
### Two Parallel Settings



#### 1. Zoo

This showcases the artificial settings for a majestic beast like tiger whose natural vigour and agility is taken up by the confinement.

## 2. Jungle



## TONE

1. Throughout the Poem :- **Ambiguous**

2. 1st Stanza :- **Rage**

3. 2nd and 3rd Stanza :- **Admiration**  
*disappointed*  
**and dominance**

4. 4th Stanza :- **Dejected**

5. 5th Stanza :- **Hopeful**

Anger  
Rage  
Zoo  
Artificial

small space

He stalks in his vivid stripes  
The few steps of his cage,  
On pads of velvet quiet,  
In his quiet rage.



**Stalks** : to walk without making noise

**Vivid** : colorful and bright

**Rage** : anger

Admirations

hunt

without

making any noise

jungle



He should be **lurking** in shadow,

Sliding through long grass

Near the water hole

Where **plump** deer pass.



**Lurking** : take a cover

**plump** : fat and stocky

jungle

roar

He should be **snarling** around  
houses

At the jungle's edge,

**Baring** his white **fangs**, his claws,

Terrorizing the village !

Admiration / dominance  
mg

**Snarling** : roar

**Baring** : to show

**Fangs** : sharp teeth



Zoo



But he's locked in a **concrete cell**,



His strength behind bars,



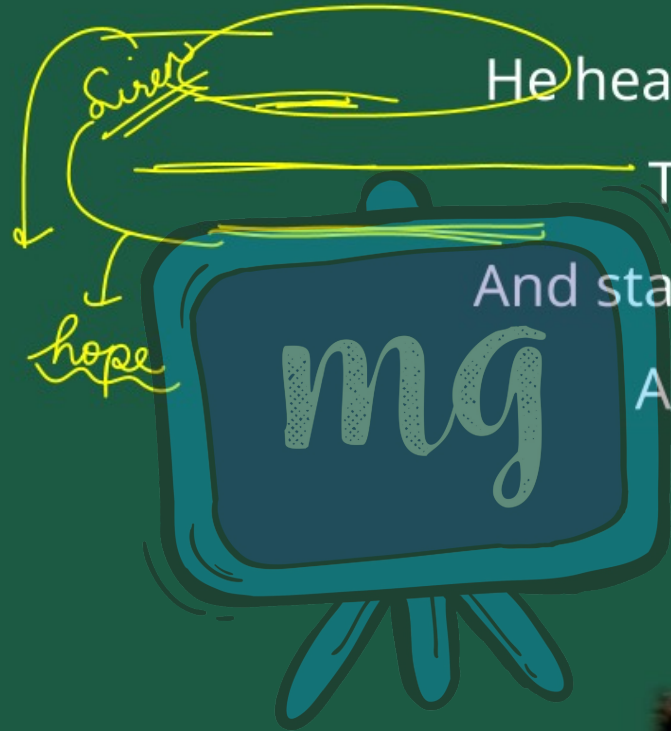
Stalking the length of his cage,

Ignoring visitors.



**Concrete** : rock solid

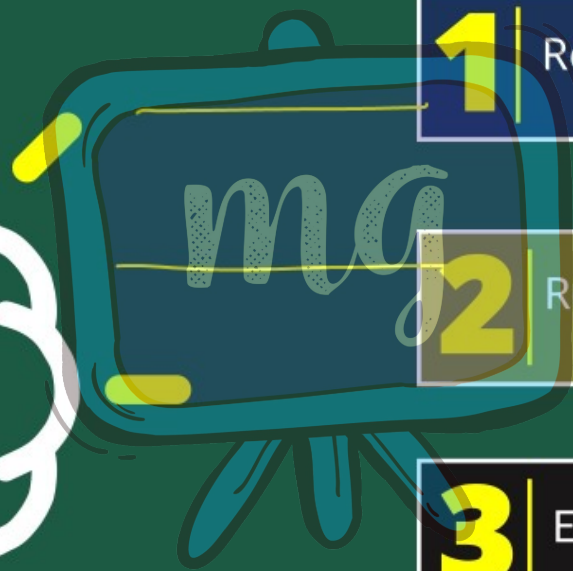
**Cell** : here, prison



He hears the last voice at night,  
The patrolling cars,  
And stares with his brilliant eyes  
At the brilliant stars.



# LEARNING OUTCOMES

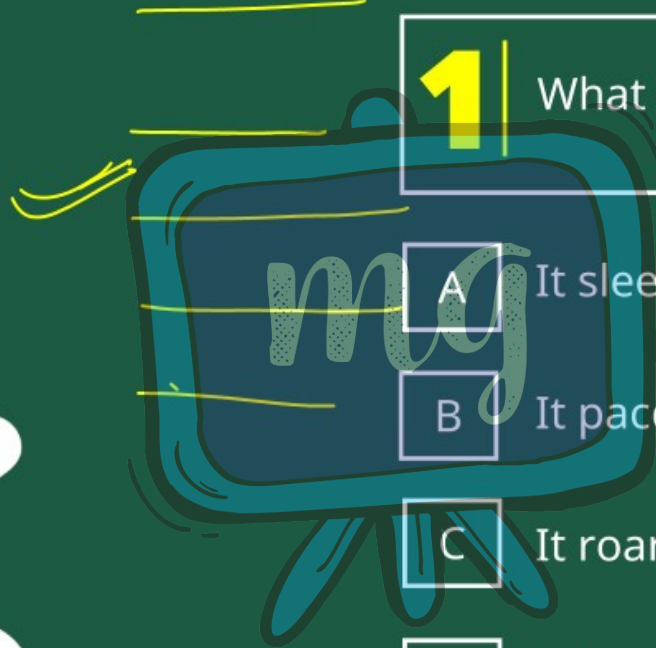


**1** | Respect for Nature

**2** | Responsibility and Accountability

**3** | Environmental Conservation

# ASSESSMENT



**1** | What does the tiger do inside its cage ?

- A | It sleeps peacefully
- B | It paces back and forth quietly
- C | It roars loudly to scare visitors
- D | It hunts for prey

# ASSESSMENT



2

How does the poet describe the tiger's movement in the zoo ?

- A Swift and powerful
- B *hunting in jungle* slow and lethargic
- C Graceful and agile
- D Quiet and stealthy

# ASSESSMENT

3

What emotion is associated with the tiger's movements in the cage?

A

Joy

B

Sadness

C

Anger

D

Excitement

# ASSESSMENT



4

What is the central theme of the poem ?

A

Freedom and captivity

B

Love and romance

C

Adventure and exploration

D

Friendship and loyalty