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CLASS – 10

ENGLISH

First Flight

Poem : The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Part – 1

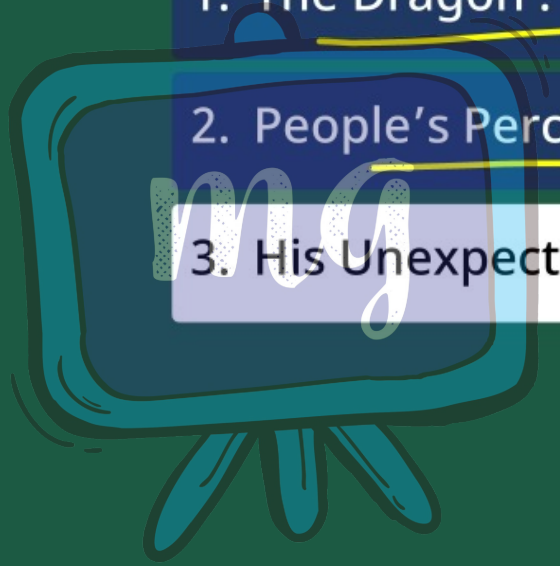
Explanation

ARPITA SHARMA

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OVERVIEW

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1. The Dragon : Custard
2. People's Perception on His Appearance
3. His Unexpected Heroism

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Ogden Nash wrote over four hundred pieces of comic verse. The best of his work was published in 14 volumes between 1931 and 1972. His work is perhaps best described in this poetic tribute by Anthony Burgess:

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...he brought a new kind of sound to our literary diversions. And didn't care much about breaking the poetic laws of the Medes and the Persians.

He uses lines, sometimes of considerable length that are colloquial and prosy.

And at the end presents you with a rhyme...

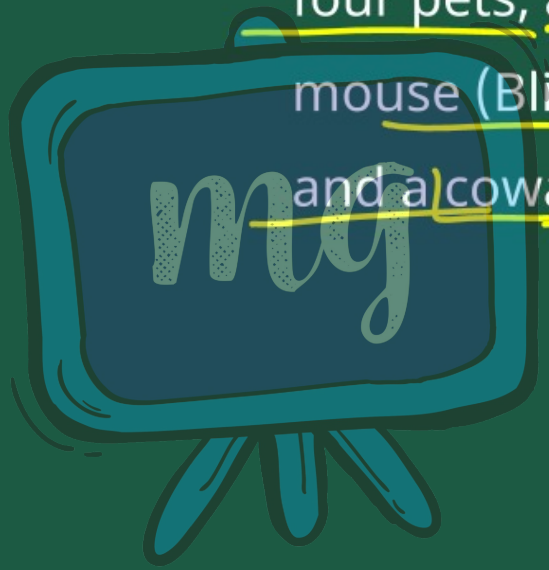
This bringing together of the informal and the formal is what his genius chiefly loves.

I am trying to imitate him here, but he is probably quite inimitable.

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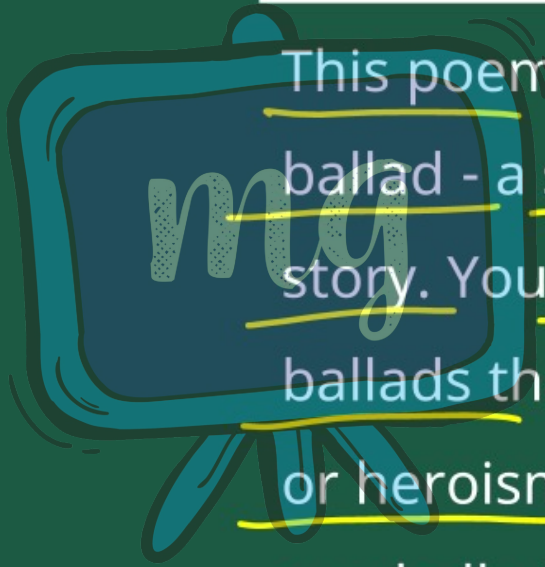
In this poem a girl Belinda who has four pets, a black kitten (Ink), a grey mouse (Blink), a yellow dog (Mustard) and a coward dragon named Custard.



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BEFORE YOU READ



This poem is written in the style of a ballad - a song or poem that tells a story. You must be familiar with ballads that narrate tales of courage or heroism. This poem is a humorous ballad close to a – parody.

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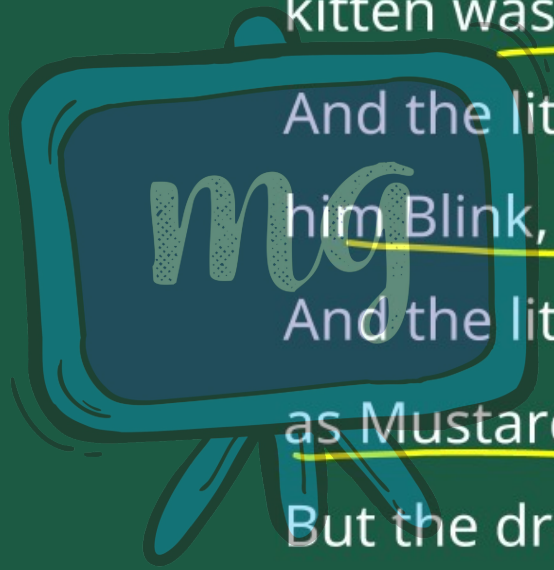


Belinda lived in a little white house,
With a little black kitten and a little grey mouse,
And a little yellow dog and a little red wagon,
And a realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

Realio	:	वास्तविक में
Trulio	:	सचमुच
Wagon	:	गाड़ी का डब्बा

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Now the name of the little black kitten was Ink,
And the little grey mouse, she called him Blink,
And the little yellow dog was sharp as Mustard,
But the dragon was a coward, and she called him Custard.

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Custard the dragon had big sharp teeth,
And spikes on top of him and scales underneath,
Mouth like a fireplace, chimney for a nose,
And realio, trulio daggers on his toes.

Scales underneath	:	पलती हड्डी की प्लेटे
Daggers	:	कटार/छुरा

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Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears,
And Ink and Blink chased lions down the stairs,
Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage,
But Custard cried for a nice safe cage.

Barrel full of bears	:	बिना डर के
Rage	:	गुस्सा
Cage	:	पिंजरा

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Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful,
Ink, Blink and Mustard, they rudely called him Percival,
They all sat laughing in the little red wagon
At the realio, trulio, cowardly dragon

Tickled	:	गुदगुदाना
Unmerciful	:	निर्दयता से
Cowardly	:	डरपोक

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Belinda giggled till she shook the house,
And Blink said Weeck! which is giggling for a mouse,
Ink and Mustard rudely asked his age,
When Custard cried for a nice safe cage.

Giggle : हँसना

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Suddenly, suddenly they heard a nasty sound,
And Mustard growled, and they all looked around.
Meowch! cried Ink, and ooh! cried Belinda,
For there was a pirate, climbing in the winda. window

Nasty	:	अप्रिय
Growled	:	गुर्राना
Pirate	:	समुद्री डाकू

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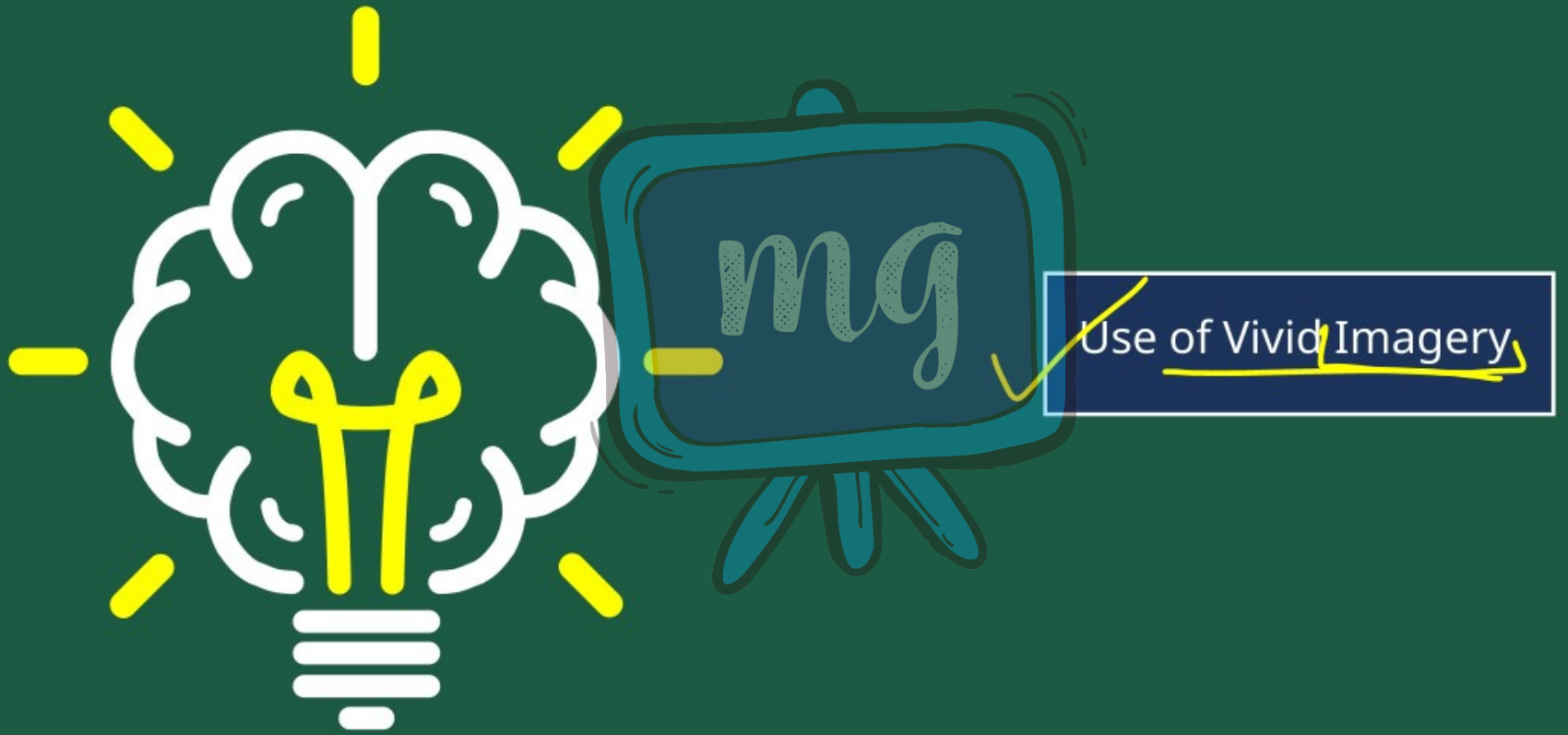
Pistol in his left hand, pistol in his right,
And he held in his teeth a cutlass bright,
His beard was black, one leg was wood;
It was clear that the pirate meant no good.

Cutlass : छोटी तलवार

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LEARNING OUTCOME

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ASSESSMENT

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1 Which of Belinda's pets always sought a safe cage?

A Ink

B Blink

C Mustard

D Custard

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ASSESSMENT

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2 Who was Blink?

A Kitten ~ Ink

B Mouse

C Dog

D Dragon