

# 03

## A Tiger in the Zoo

—by Leslie Norris

### Stanzawise Explanation

#### Stanza 1

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

**Explanation** In these lines, the poet is describing a tiger in a cage.

The tiger with bright and clear stripes moves inside the cage. The cage is very small so the tiger can hardly take a few steps along its length. His pads are soft like velvet so no one can hear the sound of his footsteps. In spite of being the most powerful creature, he is imprisoned inside a cage.

This situation has made the tiger angry. But he is keeping quiet as he knows that he is helpless in the situation.

#### Stanza 2

He should be lurking in shadow,  
Sliding through long grass  
Near the water hole  
Where plump deer pass.

**Explanation** In these lines, the poet is filled with sorrow for the caged tiger. He feels that a tiger should be free in his natural habitat.

He should be hiding in the shadows and quietly moving through the long grass near the water hole.

He should be waiting for a fat and healthy deer to pass, in the hope of getting a heavy meal. The poet wants to convey that the actual life of a tiger is in a jungle and not in a cage.

### Objective Questions

#### Extract Based MCQs

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

- 01.** He should be lurking in shadow,  
Sliding through long grass  
Near the water hole  
Where plump deer pass.

(CBSE Question Bank 2021)

- (i) According to the extract, the poet wishes for the tiger to be 'sliding' through the foliage as this would
- (a) assist in keeping the prey unsuspecting of the predator's sound.
  - (b) aid in camouflaging the presence of the predator before it rushes in.
  - (c) help the predator pounce on the prey comfortably without getting tired.
  - (d) support the predator's vision as it eyes its prey.



(ii) Which fact DOES NOT connect with the significance of the water hole for the tiger?

- (a) Many tigers chase prey into the water and holds the victim's head under water until it drowns.
- (b) Prey feed in the water on water-lilies, and often wander into the middle of the water hole, where they are vulnerable and easy for the tiger to kill.
- (c) Prey that has quenched its thirst ensures consumption of hydrated meat for the tiger.
- (d) Chasing the panicked prey from shallow to deep water where the tiger grabs it.

(iii) Pick the option that DOES NOT use 'lurking' correctly to fill in the blank.

- (a) The thug was ..... in the alley late evening, for unsuspecting passers-by.
- (b) The hyena was ..... in its den after a good meal.
- (c) The detective cautioned her team about the ..... dangers likely to impact the case.
- (d) The prejudices ..... beneath the surface create misunderstandings.

(iv) 'Shadow' here refers to the shadow of

- (a) the tiger (b) long grass
- (c) water hole (d) deer

(v) Pick the phrase that DOES NOT suggest that the forest in the extract is lush.

- (a) long grass
- (b) the water hole
- (c) plump deer
- (d) lurking in shadow

**02.** But he's locked in a concrete cell,  
His strength behind bars,  
Stalking the length of his cage,  
Ignoring visitors.  
He hears the last voice at night,  
The patrolling cars, ...

(CBSE Question Bank 2021)

(i) Choose the image that best describes the condition of the tiger based on the given extract.



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

- (a) Option (1) (b) Option (2)
- (c) Option (3) (d) Option (4)

(ii) Which option correctly lists the reason for the tiger 'stalking the length of his cage'?

- (a) Animals tend to cover large distances and burn a lot of their energy by hunting for prey, in their natural habitat. Zoos deprive them of such stimulation and they are restless and bored.
- (b) Animals are scared of visitors gazing at them in their unnatural surroundings. Zoos are places where animals are far removed from the privacy of their natural habitat.
- (c) Animals dislike human noises in the city and react to them aggressively. Zoos are often located in cities or outskirts.
- (d) Animals require human love and care and miss this when in captivity. Zoos are places where they walk around mechanically to attract human attention.

(iii) Which option identifies a patrolling car correctly?



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

- (a) Option (1) (b) Option (2)
- (c) Option (3) (d) Option (4)



- (iv) The main contrasting idea suggested in the extract is that of
- strength and weakness.
  - nature and culture.
  - beasts and mortals.
  - confinement and freedom.
- (v) Choose the option listing the most likely reason for the tiger to ignore visitors, according to the extract.
- He is scared of their constant stares.
  - The visitors don't provide him with any food.
  - He knows that none would help him out of captivity.
  - The visitors don't speak to him kindly.

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

- (i) Which of the following statements is/are correct in reference to the above extract?
- The tiger is walking inside his cage.
  - The tiger is angry because he is hungry.
  - The tiger is afraid of the people in the zoo.
  - The tiger is angry because he is trapped in a zoo when he should be in his natural habitat.
  - The tiger's paws are very soft.
- Options 2 and 3
  - Options 1 and 4
  - Options 2, 3 and 5
  - Options 1, 4 and 5
- (ii) Where is the tiger at present?
- In the forest
  - In a circus
  - In a cage
  - In a room
- (iii) Choose from the following list the qualities of the animal mentioned in the extract.
- Quiet

- Vivid stripes on his body
- Desperate
- Soft, velvet-like paws
- Roaring

- Options 1 and 4
- Only option 2
- Options 2 and 4
- Options 3 and 5

- (iv) Which word in the stanza may also mean graphic or picturesque
- Strips
  - Velvet
  - Quiet
  - Vivid
- (v) Why is the tiger in 'quite rage'?
- Movement restricted
  - Freedom curtailed
  - Not fed properly
  - Both (a) and (b)

## MCQs Based on Poem

**01.** How does the tiger scare the people?

- By growling
- Walking up and down
- Attacking people
- Baring his white teeth and claws

**02.** Why does the tiger 'snarl' in the poem 'A Tiger in the Zoo'?

- To show his anger
- Feeling helpless
- Wants to runaway
- Both (a) and (b)

**03.** How does the tiger show his presence as described in the poem "A Tiger in the Zoo"?

- By baring teeth and claws
- By sitting quietly
- By growling
- Both (a) and (c)

**04.** "He should be sharling around houses  
At the jungle's edge,  
Baring his white fangs, his claws,  
Terrorising the village!"

From the given lines, the poet is suggesting that .....

- tiger is a very proud animal
- tiger can get angry easily
- tiger should be in his natural habitat
- tiger can harm anyone



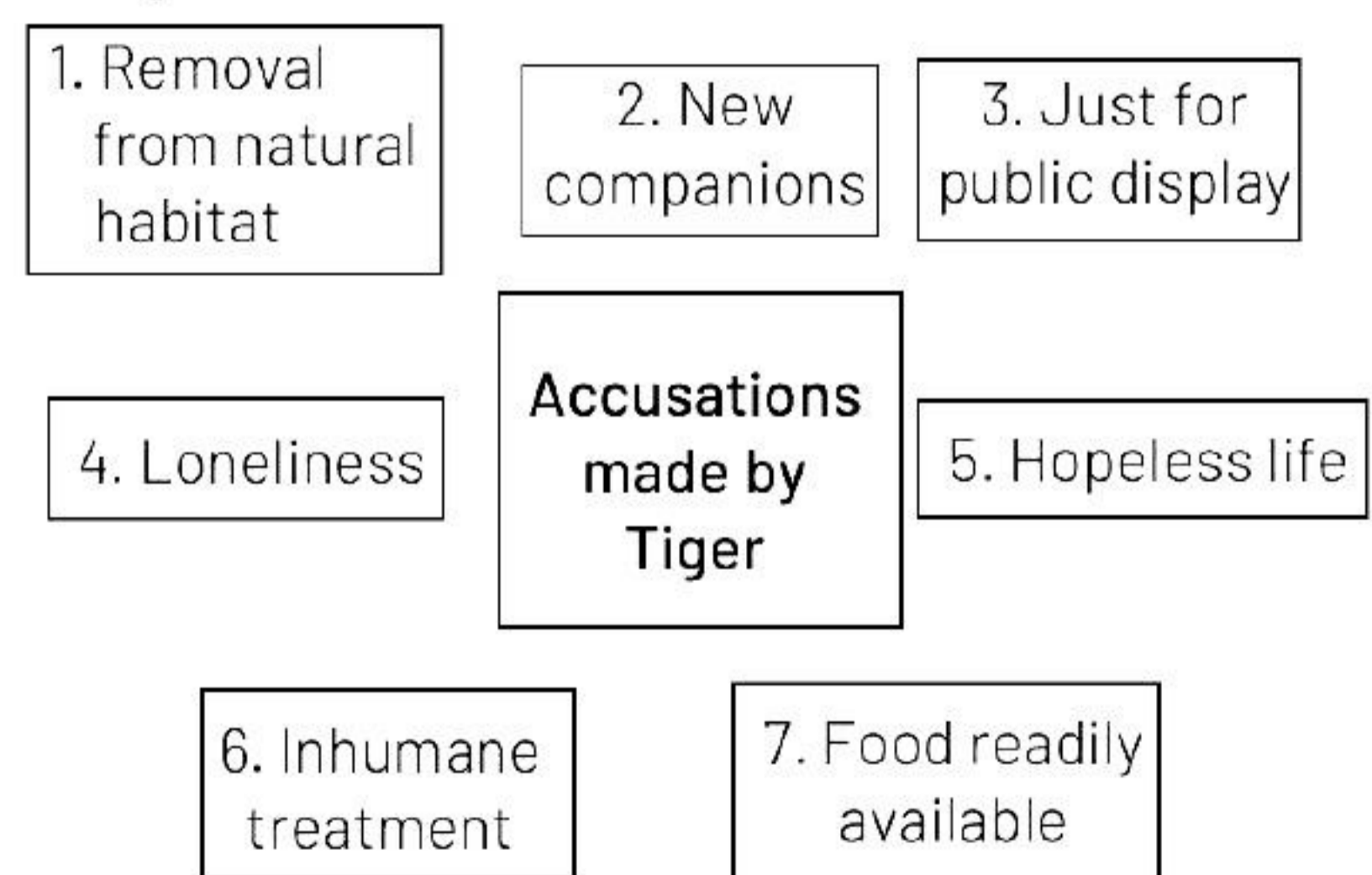
- 05.** The poem “A Tiger in the Zoo” draws a contrast between ..... and ..... .  
 (a) Animals, human beings  
 (b) Tiger in a zoo, tiger in a forest  
 (c) Tiger in a zoo, humans  
 (d) Humans, tiger in forest
- 06.** Name the poetic device used in the line “He stalks in his vivid stripes” from the poem “A Tiger in the Zoo”.  
 (a) Metaphor  
 (b) Assonance  
 (c) Oxymoron  
 (d) Consonance
- 07.** Name the poetic device used in the line “On pads of velvet quiet” from the poem “A Tiger in the Zoo”.  
 (a) Metaphor  
 (b) Assonance  
 (c) Oxymoron  
 (d) Consonance
- 08.** Name the poetic device used in the line “In his quiet rage” from the poem “A Tiger in the Zoo”.  
 (a) Metaphor  
 (b) Assonance  
 (c) Oxymoron  
 (d) Consonance
- 09.** Why should the tiger in the poem “A Tiger in the Zoo” be lurking in shadow?  
 (a) Out of fear  
 (b) Out of anger  
 (c) To hunt a deer  
 (d) Both (a) and (b)
- 10.** Who passes near the water hole in the poem “A Tiger in the Zoo”?  
 (a) Fat Pig (b) Fat Buffalo  
 (c) Fat Deer (d) All of these
- 11.** Which line describes “tiger in a cell” in the poem “A Tiger in the Zoo”?  
 (a) Locked in concrete cell  
 (b) Snarling around houses  
 (c) Shadow, long grass  
 (d) Baring his white fangs

- 12.** In the poem “A Tiger in the Zoo”, what is the poet trying to say by “ignoring visitors”,?  
 (a) Tiger knows his power is restricted  
 (b) There is no use of showing rage  
 (c) He is less terrorising because of the cage  
 (d) All of the above
- 13.** Match the lines from the poem ‘A Tiger in the Zoo’ given in List I with the poetic devices used in them given in List II.

| List I                                  | List II            |
|---|--------------------|
| A. “He stalks in his vivid stripes”     | 1. Alliteration    |
| B. “Should be snarling around houses”   | 2. Personification |
| C. “Where plump deer pass”              | 3. Assonance       |
| D. “And stares with his brilliant eyes” | 4. Onomatopoeia    |

- |       |   |   |   |       |   |   |   |
|-------|---|---|---|-------|---|---|---|
| A     | B | C | D | A     | B | C | D |
| (a) 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | (b) 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| (c) 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | (d) 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 |

- 14.** Imagine that man has accused by the tiger of cruelty in an animal court. What would be the tiger’s accusations? Choose that correct code from the given options.



- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| (a) 1, 2, 3, 4    | (b) 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 |
| (c) 2, 3, 4 and 7 | (d) 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 |

**15.** Choose the appropriate response in support of the following remark made by a student.

Zoos should be banned. Its not right to keep animals this way.



- (a) I think zoos are harmful to the animals.
- (b) I think animals can be kept in zoo so that they can be protected.
- (c) I think wildlife sanctuaries and parks are better way to protect wildlife animals.
- (d) I think humans should be kept in zoos and animal should roam freely.

## ANSWERS

### Extract Based MCQs

Extract 1

(i) (a) (ii) (c) (iii) (b) (iv) (b) (v) (d)

Extract 2

(i) (b) (ii) (a) (iii) (b) (iv) (d) (v) (c)

Extract 3

(i) (d) (ii) (c) (iii) (c) (iv) (d) (v) (d)

### MCQs Based on Poem

1. (d) 2. (d) 3. (d) 4. (c) 5. (b) 6. (d) 7. (a) 8. (c) 9. (c) 10. (c)  
11. (a) 12. (d) 13. (b) 14. (b) 15. (c)