

## **Fog – (Poem)**

### **GIST**

Fog is a very small poem written by Carl Sandburg. He has described the process of arrival of the fog into a city and the harbour. He has very beautifully compared it to a cat. The poet says that the fog which is generally seen during the winter season is coming towards the city and the harbour just like a cat. This means that it is approaching the city in a very silent manner so that no one can notice its arrival. He has compared its arrival to that of a cat because a cat always enters a place silently. Next he says that the fog has covered the whole of the city and harbour and it appears as if it is sitting by folding its legs and looking around just the way a cat does when it sits on the haunches and looks around. At the end, he describes the departure of the fog which very silently and unpredictably, again, similar to the departure of the cat, vanishes.

### **Extract Based Comprehension Questions:**

1.                   The fog comes on little cat feet.  
                      It sits looking over harbour  
                      and city on silent haunches and then moves on.

### **Questions:**

- (a)    How does the fog come?
- (b)    What does the fog do in the end?
- (c)    For what does 'it' stand in the third line?
- (d)    Name the poem and the poet. Answers:

### **Answers**

- (a)    The fog comes on little cat feet.
- (b)    In the end, the fog marches on.
- (c)    'It', here is the fog.
- (d)    The name of the poem is 'Fog' and the poet's name is Carl Sandburg.

2.                   The fog comes on little cat feet.  
                      It sits looking over harbour  
                      and city on silent haunches and then moves on.

### **Questions:**

- (a)    Why does the poet use the metaphor of a cat?
- (b)    How does the fog enter?
- (c)    How does it sit and what does it look?
- (d)    How does it depart?

**Answers:**

- (a) The poet uses the metaphor of the cat because the fog changes into a cat and the cat morphs back into the fog.
- (b) The fog enters silently like a little cat.
- (c) The fog sits silently on its haunches overlooking the harbour and the city.
- (d) The fog stays for a while and departs silently.

**Short Answer Questions (30-40 Words)**

Q 1. How does the poet compare fog to a living being?

Ans: The poet compares the fog to a cat. The silent steps of a cat and the way it sits on its haunches is very similar to the way fog comes and surrounds the city and looks over it.

Q 2. What image does the poet give to the fog? What are the similarities between that image and fog? Ans:

The poet looks at fog as a living creature and compares it to a cat. The fog moves like a cat on little cat feet and sits on haunches like a cat.

**Additional SAQ for practice**

- 1. How is the fog like a cat? What poetic device is used by the poet here?
- 2. Name the three things that tell us that the fog is like a cat.

**Long Answer Questions: (100-150 words)**

Q 1. Difficulties come but they are not to stay forever. They come and go. Comment referring to the poem 'Fog'.

Ans: Difficulties, when faced by people, tend to leave them hopeless and shattered. It takes a lot of courage to overcome any problem and to solve it. If we take a clue from the poem and compare difficulties to fog, we find that just like fog, difficulties also come and go. Fog is a very small poem written by Carl Sandburg. He has described the process of arrival of the fog into a city and the harbour. He has very beautifully compared it to a cat. One need not be hopeless and lose courage when problems come, one should rather think of it as fog, meaning that it has not come to stay but will always leave, like fog.

Q 2. Nature has many wonders that people take for granted and never pay attention to. How is the poem 'Fog' different from this perspective?

Ans: Fog is a very small poem written by Carl Sandburg. He has described the process of arrival of the fog into a city and the harbour. He has very beautifully compared it to a cat. The poet has taken utmost pleasure in nature and natural phenomenon like fog. Fog is so special to the poet that he cared enough not only to write about it, but also thinks of its resemblance with other things in the world. In his close attention to fog, he found fog resembles a cat, in the way it moves and sits on its haunches. The fact that such a resemblance was found by the poet shows how connected he is to various things in nature. This poem serves as a motivation for people, who take nature for granted to find such interesting comparisons and similarities around them.

### **Additional LAQ for practice**

1. How does the poet describe the fog as if it were a living being, Elaborate?
2. How does the poet make fog like a living being? What message does the 'Fog' give out?