

A TIGER IN THE ZOO-LESLIE NORRIS

Gist:Poem at a glance

This poem contrasts a tiger when it is in its natural habitat and when it is imprisoned in a zoo.

On a starry night, the poet sees a tiger in a zoo.

The tiger moves slowly up and down in his cage

The tiger is full of rage but is quiet in his helplessness.

The poet is moved to pity for the tiger

The poet says that the tiger should have been in the jungle

But sadly the tiger is locked behind bars in a concrete cell

The tiger does not take any notice of the visitors

The tiger is no longer free to move in his natural habitat

EXTRACT BASED COMPREHENSION QUESTION EXERCISE

Q 1. 'He stalks in his vivid stripes

The few steps of his cage,

On pads of velvet quiet,

In his quiet rage'

A) What does a tiger have on his body?

(a) Spots

(b) **Stripes**

(c) Stars

(d) All of the above.

B)How does the tiger feel in the cage?

(a)He was in a sad mood

(b)**He was in angry mood**

(c) He was in happy mood

(d)He was in surprised

C)Name the poetic device used in the line "He stalks in his vivid stripes".

(a) metaphor

(b) assonance

(c) Oxymoron

(d) **Consonance**

D) Name the poetic device used in the line "In his quiet rage".

(a)Simile

(b)Personification

(c)Metaphor

(d)**Oxymoron**

Q2.He should be lurking in shadow,

Sliding through long grass

Near the water hole

Where plump deer pass.

A)Who is 'He' in the given extract?

(a)**tiger**

(b)forest

(c)zoo

(d)all of the above

B)Why should he be lurking in shadow?

(a) out of fear

(b) out of anger

(c) **to catch the deer**

(d) both 1 and 2

C)The poem draws a contrast between _____ and _____

(a)animals,humans

(b)**tiger in a zoo,tiger in a forest**

(c)tiger in a zoo,humans

(d)humans,tiger in a forest

D) What does the tiger hunt near the water hole?

- (a)lions
- (b)elephants
- (c)**deer**
- (d)all of the above

E)Which word in the stanza will mean 'to lie or wait in concealment'?

- a) Shadow
- b) Water hole
- c) Sliding
- d) **Lurking**

Q3.He should be snarling around houses

At the jungle's edge,

Baring his white fangs, his claws,

Terrorising the village!

A)What described "tiger in a jungle"?

- (a)Locked in concrete cell
- (b)his strength behind bars
- (c)ignoring visitors
- (d)**baring his white fangs**

B) Name the poetic device used in the line "Baring his white fangs,his claws".

- (a)metaphor
- (b)assonance
- (c)Oxymoron
- (d)**Consonance**

C)Where should the tiger be snarling?

- (a)**at the jungle's edge**
- (b)at the cage's edge
- (c)in the cage
- (d)all of the above

Q4.*But he's locked in a concrete cell,*

His strength behind bars,

Stalking the length of his cage,

Ignoring visitors.

A)Where is the tiger's strength locked?

- (a)behind the jungle
- (b)**behind the bars**
- (c)behind his nature

(d)None of the Above

B)What describes “tiger in a cell”?

- (a)**Locked in concrete cell**
- (b)snarling around houses
- (c)shadow, long grass
- (d)baring his white fangs

C) What has been personified in the poem?

- (a)**tiger**
- (b)forest
- (c)zoo
- (d)all of the above

Q5)He hears the last voice at night,
The patrolling cars,
And stares with his brilliant eyes
At the brilliant stars.

A)Pick out the word from the stanza that means the same as—‘gleaming’.

- (a)stares
- (b)**brilliant**
- (c)patrolling
- (d)all of the above

B)How are the eyes of the tiger?

- (a)**Brilliant**
- (b)sleepy
- (c)dull
- (d)sad

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

(2 MARKS QUESTIONS)

Q1. Why is he in quiet rage?

Ans: i. He is in quiet rage as he is locked----his freedom has been curtailed.----he is unable to show his anger and ferocity.

Q2. Why does the tiger ignore the visitors?

Ans: He considers them devoid of feeling---- as none of them tries to help him out of the prison----

Q3. How does the tiger make his presence felt in the village?

Ans:Snarling around houses at the jungle's edge---- by showing his white fangs and claws.

Q4.Describe some of the activities of the tiger as stated by the poet.

Ans: walking along the cage----- hearing the patrolling of cars -----ignoring visitors

Q5.Why does the tiger express his anger quietly?

Ans: He is helpless----He can do nothing from behind the bars----

Q6. How does the tiger feel in the zoo?

Ans: He keeps on moving from one corner to another.-----He stalks in his vivid stripes moving the few steps of his cage-----He is not happy-----expresses his silent anger.

Q7.What message do you get from this poem?

Ans: Animals like to live freely in the forest-----The animals do not want to live in the zoo-----Their life is pitiable in it.

Q8. How does the tiger act in the cage?

Ans. He is powerless and helpless---He longs for freedom----His velvet pads do not make any noise----He is in the silent anger roaring and ignoring the visitors.

Q9.Where does the tiger stalk? How is his behavior?

Ans: The Tiger at present is in the cage-----He walks in the cage stalking-----He is quiet angry due to his imprisonment in the cage..

3 MARKS QUESTIONS:

Q 1. 'Freedom is a life for both humans and animals. Elaborate with reference to the poem "A Tiger in the Zoo."

Ans:The poet describes the feelings of the tiger in the Zoo----- He keeps on moving from corner to another---- He stalks in his vivid stripes moving the few steps of his cage.

Q 2.What does the poet want to convey through this poem?

Ans:Human beings, animals also like freedom----- They do not want to be caged, they cannot live a miserable life----- If their habitat is destroyed -----these animals cannot survive.

Q 3. Do you agree that wild animals should be caged? Comment yes or no giving reasons.

Ans:This is a well-known fact that----- tiger is a royal species which is on the verge of extinction. In ancient times tigers moved around freely in the forests----- the entertainment of people

Q4. Why do you think the tiger looks at the stars?

Ans: The tiger feels very helpless in the cage-----He stares with hope at the brilliant stars shining in the sky----- He hopes for the day when he would be able to run free in the wild.

Q5. Why should the tiger snarl around houses at the edge of the forest?

Ans: Firstly the villagers will not disturb the peace of the forest. --they will not kill the animals for money or just for fun.