

## **HOW TO TELL WILD ANIMALS      [POEM]**

### **GIST**

How to tell wild animals is a humorous poem written by Carolyn Wells. In the poem, the poet is introducing various wild animals by explaining the characteristics of each of them in a very funny way. The poem suggests some dangerous ways to identify wild animals. She has used language in a way that it generates

humour. Various kinds of wild animals like Asian lion, Bengal tiger, bear, and etc. are introduced to the reader humorously. Much of the humour arises from the way language is used.

### **EXTRACT BASED COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS [SOLVED]**

1.                If ever you should go by chance  
                    To jungles in the east;  
                    And if there should to you advance  
                    A large and tawny beast,  
                    If he roars at you as you're dyin'  
                    You'll know it is the Asian Lion ....

#### **Questions.**

- (a)     What are the features of an Asian Lion?
- (b)     What happens to you when the lion roars?
- (c)     What do you mean by 'tawny'?
- (d)     Where is the Asian Lion found?

#### **Answers:**

- (a)     An Asian Lion is large and brownish-yellow in colour.
- (b)     When the lion roars, it is very scary and we feel that we are going to die.
- (c)     'Tawny' means brownish-yellow in colour.
- (d)     Asian lion is found in the jungles of the East. If strolling forth, a beast you view,  
          Whose hide with spots in peppered, As soon as he has leapt on you, you'll know it is the Leopard.  
          It will do no good to roar with pain, He'll only leap and leap again.

#### **Questions.**

- (a)     Describe the hide of a leopard?
- (b)     When does one come to know that it is a leopard?
- (c)     Write two words from the stanza which is wrongly spelt?
- (d)     Why it won't do any good to roar with pain?

#### **Answers**

- (a)     A leopard's hide is covered with spots.
- (b)     One comes to know that it is a leopard when it leaps or jumps on him.
- (c)     Leapt and leap are given in the poem as leapt and leapt

- (d) It won't do any good to roar with pain because then the leopard will pounce upon you again.

### **SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS [SOLVED]**

1. How can you identify the Asian lion and the Bengal Tiger?
2. How can you distinguish between a hyena and a crocodile?
3. How does the poet describe the bear?
4. How does a leopard behave when he sees someone?

### **Answers**

1. The Asian Lion has a large body and a brownish-yellow colour... It roars loudly when it attacks its prey. The very roar is enough to terrorise one to death. On the other hand, the Bengal Tiger is a noble animal which attacks the prey silently. It has black stripes on its yellow coat.
2. It is not easy to distinguish among wild animals. But a hyena and a crocodile can easily be distinguished. A hyena laughs as it swallows its victim, whereas a crocodile will have tears as it kills its victim.
3. The poet describes the bear in a humorous way. He says that as soon as a bear sees a human being, it hugs him tightly. It clasps its prey tightly with both its hands and squeezes him to death. If he is still alive, he gives him another tight hug to kill him.
4. A leopard has black spots all over its body. As soon as it sees someone, it leaps over him at once. There will be no use of crying with pain. It will not show any mercy, but keep on pouncing continuously on its victim.

### **Long Answer Question [100-150 words each.]**

Describe the effective use of humour in the poem How to tell wild animals. What are the poetic liberties taken by the poet in the poem?

The poet, in the poem 'How to tell Wild Animals' creates humour by describing various beasts of prey. The way the poet explains the things is very funny yet interesting. The poet has depicted the wildlife very vividly and in a lively manner. While reading the poem, the readers enjoy the poet's work and it leaves them refreshed and happy. The humour used in the poem is suggestive and mild. If the Asian Lion 'roars' at you as you are dying, the Bengal Tiger is a 'noble' wild beast that 'greet' you when you are roaming round in the

jungle. The leopard will show no mercy and it will do no good to roar with pain. The bear gives you a very hard 'hug' and if you have any doubts whether it is a bear, it will give you just one more caress. The poet humorously says that hyenas come with 'merry smiles'; but if they 'weep' they are crocodiles. Similarly, the poet takes many liberties to make the poem impressive. In order to rhyme with 'lion' the poet changes the word dying to 'dyin'. Instead of leapt and leap the poet writes 'lept' and 'lep'. All these changes make the poem more interesting and enjoyable.

### **Unsolved Short Answer Questions**

1. How will you recognize an Asian lion?
2. What are the specialties of a Bengal Tiger?
3. How can you distinguish between a tiger and a leopard?
4. What are the distinctive features of the Asian lion as given in the poem?
5. How does a leopard behave when he sees someone?
6. Is the tight hug of a bear really friendly?
7. How will you recognize a true chameleon?

### **Unsolved Long Answer Questions**

1. Describe the various ways to recognize Asian Lions, Bengal Tigers, Leopards, Bears, Hyenas, Crocodiles and Chameleons?
2. The poet has successfully used humour to be able to 'tell' or identify 'Wild Animals'. How do you think we need lots of it in our daily life?
3. 'Humour is the best medicine for every ailment in life'. Comment.