



HOW TO TELL WILD ANIMALS



Explanation of the Poem:

Stanza 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



Explanation: In the East's jungles, a big animal with yellow-brown fur roars loudly. If it scares you to bits, congratulations, you've met an Asiatic Lion.

Stanza 2

Or if some time when roaming round,
A noble wild beast greets you,
With black stripes on a yellow ground,
Just notice if he eats you.
This simple rule may help you learn
The Bengal Tiger to discern.



Explanation: Best, you might spot a huge, noble creature with black stripes on its yellow coat. If it attacks, consider yourself face-to-face with the mighty Bengal Tiger.

Stanza 3

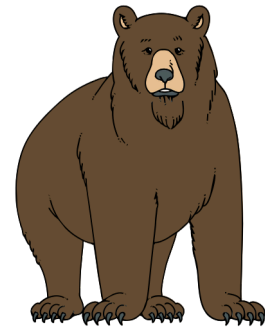
If strolling forth, a beast you view,
Whose hide with spots is peppered,
As soon as he has lept on you,
You'll know it is the Leopard.
Twill do no good to roar with pain,
He'll only lep and lep again.



Explanation: While wandering leisurely in the forest, you'll encounter a creature adorned with dark spots. Once it pounces on you, realize it's the elusive leopard. Despite cries, the relentless jumps leave no escape.

Stanza 4

If when you're walking round your yard
You meet a creature there,
who hugs you very, very hard,
Be sure it is Bear.
If you have any doubts, I guess
He'll give you just one more caress.



Explanation: In your yard, if something big gives you a super tight hug, it's a bear. Doubt it? The bear hugs again, and it's not a friendly one it might even be dangerous.

Stanza 5

Though to distinguish beasts of prey
A novice might nonplus,
The Crocodile you always may
Tell from the Hyena thus:
Hyenas come with merry smiles,
But if they weep they're Crocodiles.



Explanation: In the wild, it's hard to tell animals apart. Hyenas laugh when attacking, and crocodiles cry while eating. Don't wait for sounds - both are risky. Stay safe!

Stanza 6

The true Chameleon is small, a
lizard-like creature; he hasn't any
ears at all and not a single wing. .
And not a single wing. If there is
nothing on the tree, Tis the
Chameleon you see..



Explanation: Chameleons are tiny, like garden lizards, without ears or wings. If you can't see something on a tree, it's probably a chameleon. It changes colors to hide from enemies.

Poetic Devices used in the Poem

Alliteration Repetition of initial consonant sounds in the same line

roaming round
lep and lep again
who hugs you very very hard
A novice might nonplus

Paradox A figure of speech in which a statement appears to contradict itself
A noble wild beast greets you

Extract Based Questions:

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 ...

- (a) State features of an Asian Lion.
- (b) What happens when the lion roars?
- (c) What do you mean by 'tawny' ?
- (d) What is the physical appearance of the lion in the stanza?

Answer: (a) An Asian Lion is large and brownish-yellow in colour.
(b) When the lion roars, it is very scary and it feels like we are going to die.
(c) 'Tawny' means brownish-yellow in colour.
(d) The lion in the stanza is large and tawny.

2. Or if some time when roaming round, A noble wild beast greets you, With black stripes on a yellow ground, Just notice if he eats you. This simple rule may help you learn The Bengal Tiger to discern.

- (a) How can you recognise a Tiger?
- (b) Why does the poet call him a noble animal? [CBSE 2015]
- (c) How is Bengal Tiger different from the other animals?
- (d) What does the word 'ground' mean here?

Answer: (a) A tiger can be recognised with the black stripes on his yellow hide.
(b) The poet calls him a noble animal as he is very impressive in size and does not roar loudly.
(c) Bengal Tiger is different from the other animals as he is quiet and roams silently.
(d) It means the hide or the background that is the skin of the Tiger.

Top 10 PYQs:

Short Answer Questions (40-50 words each)

1. Elaborate on the poet's warning about encountering a large and tawny beast in the jungles of the East. What significance does the roar of this beast carry, and why is it considered a crucial identifier?

Answer: The poet cautions about encountering a large and tawny beast in the jungles of the East, emphasizing that if this creature roars at you in a manner that could induce fear leading to one's demise, it is unmistakably the Asiatic Lion. The significance lies in the distinctive roar, serving as a crucial identifier to differentiate this formidable beast from other creatures in the wild.

2. Delve into the poet's portrayal of the Bengal Tiger and the suggested outcome of an encounter. What symbolic features distinguish this noble wild beast, and how does the poet communicate the potential danger?

Answer: The poet vividly portrays the Bengal Tiger as a noble wild beast with black stripes on a yellow background. The suggested outcome of encountering this majestic creature is ominous, as the poem implies that if the Bengal Tiger happens to eat you, it might not end well for the observer. The symbolic features of black stripes on a yellow coat serve as distinguishing marks, adding a layer of danger to the portrayal of this wild predator.

3. Explore the poet's description of a Leopard and the cautionary advice provided regarding its behavior. How does the Leopard's hide and actions contribute to its identification, and what is the poet's message about the potential dangers?

Answer: The poem details the Leopard with a hide adorned with spots, and the cautionary advice revolves around its behavior. If a Leopard leaps on you, the poet warns that roaring with pain won't be effective, as the Leopard will persistently continue to leap. The distinctive hide and aggressive actions of the Leopard contribute to its identification, and the poet conveys a message about the potential dangers associated with encountering this wild feline.

4. Explain the scenario painted by the poet concerning a creature that hugs you very hard in your yard. What emotions does the hug convey, and how does the poet suggest confirming the identity of this creature? What further action does the poet predict from this creature?

Answer: The poet describes a scenario where a creature in your yard hugs you very hard, and the emotions conveyed through this embrace are intense. The poet suggests that if there are doubts about the creature's identity, it will provide just one more tight caress, underscoring the powerful and potentially dangerous nature of the encounter. The hug becomes a distinctive feature, and the poet predicts another caress if uncertainties persist.

5. Examine the poet's comparison between Hyenas and Crocodiles, focusing on their behaviors and how one can distinguish between the two. What role do smiles and weeping play in this differentiation, and what underlying message does the poet convey about their natures?

Answer: The poet draws a comparison between Hyenas and Crocodiles, emphasizing their behaviors as key differentiators. Hyenas, characterized by merry smiles, stand in stark contrast to Crocodiles, which weep. The smiles and weeping become symbolic representations of their natures, providing a distinctive feature to tell them apart. The underlying message suggests that even though their appearances might be misleading, their behaviors serve as reliable indicators of their true identities.

6. Investigate the poet's description of the true Chameleon, examining its physical characteristics and unique traits. How does the Chameleon adapt to its surroundings, and what role does the absence of something on a tree play in recognizing this creature?

Answer: The poet describes the true Chameleon as a small lizard devoid of ears and wings. The Chameleon's unique trait lies in its ability to change color to match its surroundings. The absence of something on a tree becomes a significant clue, indicating the presence of a Chameleon. The poet underscores the adaptive nature of the Chameleon, using its color-changing ability as a distinct feature for recognition in the wild.

7. Dig into the poet's portrayal of Hyenas and the significance attributed to their merry smiles. How does this characteristic contribute to the recognition of Hyenas, and what commentary does the poet offer about their demeanor?

Answer: The poet portrays Hyenas with merry smiles, assigning significance to this characteristic as a recognizable feature. The merry smiles become a key element in distinguishing Hyenas from other creatures. The poet's commentary suggests that these smiles are not merely expressions but indicative of the Hyenas' nature, providing valuable information for those navigating the complexities of the wild.

8. 'Many animals can be identified according to the poets' suggestion. Name the animals. Which ones would you like to identify? Are there any lessons for us from this poem?

Answer: The poet humorously warns against identifying dangerous animals, like the Bengal Tiger and leopard, by risking one's life. Instead, recognizing a tiger's black stripes and a leopard's peppered spots from a safe distance is advised. However, embracing the bear, metaphorically depicted as a "bear hug," is considered a less perilous pursuit. The poet uses wit to caution readers against getting too close to these creatures.

9. How does the poet differentiate Crocodiles and Hyenas based on their behaviors, particularly with merry smiles and weeping?

Answer: The poet uses merry smiles for Hyenas and weeping for Crocodiles as symbolic markers. The broader message is that recognizing these creatures requires understanding their behaviors, not just their appearances.

10. How does the poet describe the true Chameleon, emphasizing its physical attributes and adaptive capabilities?

Answer: The poet portrays the true Chameleon as a small creature without ears and wings. Its distinct feature is its color-changing ability, aiding in adaptation to surroundings. The absence of something on a tree is a key indicator of a Chameleon. Overall, these unique traits contribute to easy recognition in various natural environments.