



# FOG

## Explanation of the Poem:

### Stanza 1

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



**Explanation:** The poet describes the arrival of fog as a silent presence, likening it to a cat that approaches with delicate steps. Much like a cat that sits quietly, observing its surroundings by folding its knees, the fog settles over the harbor and city, enveloping everything in its ethereal embrace. Eventually, akin to the cat's silent departure, the fog quietly dissipates from the harbor and city, leaving behind a tranquil atmosphere.

**Central Idea of the Poem:** The central theme of the poem revolves around the portrayal of the natural occurrence of fog. The poet draws a captivating parallel between the arrival and departure of the fog and the quiet, unobtrusive movements of a cat. Much like a cat's silent approach and disappearance, the fog subtly envelops and then withdraws from its surroundings. The poet emphasizes the unobtrusiveness of both the cat and the fog, highlighting how their presence goes unnoticed, causing minimal disturbance to the observer.

## Poetic Devices Used in the Poem

Analogy Metaphor/Personification Comparison of fog to a cat

Rhyme Scheme No rhyme. The poem is in free verse.

## Extract Based Questions:

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

**1. What is the fog compared to in the extract?**

**Answer:** The fog is compared to little cat feet.

**2. How does the fog observe the surroundings in the extract?**

**Answer:** The fog sits on silent haunches and looks over the harbor and city.

**3. What does the phrase "silent haunches" imply about the nature of the fog?**

**Answer:** The phrase suggests that the fog creeps with a certain stealth or grace.

**4. What might the movement of the fog signify in the context of the extract?**

**Answer:** The movement of the fog could suggest a transient and ephemeral nature, as it comes and goes, observing the surroundings briefly.

**2. The fog comes on the little cat's feet. It sits looking over the harbor and city on silent haunches and then moves on.**

**(a) What does the poet mean by little cat feet?**

**Answer:** Little cat feet here represent a cat's silent and careful steps. The way fog comes resembles the steps of a cat.

**(b) What do haunches mean?**

**Answer:** Haunches mean hips.

**(c) How is the fog looking over the harbor and the city?**

**Answer:** The fog looks over the harbour and the city, sitting on its haunches like a cat.

**(d) "It sits looking..." what is the poetic device used here?**

**Answer:** A metaphor is used here.

## Top 10 PYQs:

### Short Answer Questions (40-50 words each)

**1. Stealth is an important aspect of fog. State any two instances from the poem "Fog" that suggest the same.**

**Answer:** The poem draws a parallel between the silent movements of a cat and the quiet progression of fog. Both the cat and the fog share a discreet nature in their actions—the cat moves noiselessly, and similarly, the fog sits silently, resembling the cat as it envelops the city. The poet underscores the resemblance in the hushed and unobtrusive manner in which both the cat and the fog carry out their respective activities.

**2. Highlight any two characteristics of fog from its description in the poem and justify your choice of characteristics briefly.**

**Answer:** The fog quietly sneaks into the city without making any noise. It covers everything in a short time, like a cozy blanket. Then, just as suddenly, it disappears without a sound, leaving everything clear again.

**3. Is the fog portrayed as a resident of the city or as an outsider? Support your answer with two such references from the poem "Fog".**

**Answer:** The poem depicts "Fog" as an unpredictable visitor, arriving unexpectedly in the city. It hovers for a while, much like an outsider exploring a new place, and then suddenly departs, as if moving on to another destination.

**4. Comment, in detail, on the significance of the closing phrase of the poem- "moves on".**

**Answer:** The fog arrives quietly and stays over the city for a short while, just like a cat that silently sits. Like a sneaky cat, the fog then moves away and disappears without anyone noticing, much like the cat not staying in one place for long. The poet wants us to know that the fog is temporary, like something passing by, not here to stay. It moves to other places, just like the cat goes away to explore different spots.

**5. In the poem "Fog", the poet features the fog as animated. If you had to write a similar poem for one other natural phenomenon, which animal would you use to convey the characteristics of that particular phenomena? Justify, in detail, your choice of animal corresponding to it by bringing out similarities.**

**Answer:** The poem 'Fog' describes the advancement of fog toward the city and harbor. He says the fog comes like a cat comes on its little feet. This means the fog advances toward the city very slowly and calmly just like a cat. It unpredictably enters our home. Similarly, the zig-zag movement of the flowing river can be compared to the zig-zag movement of a snake. Just like the river water never flows in a straight manner in the same way the snake can never walk straight. Its movement is graceful and beautiful. Many poets have described the wavy motion of the snake with that of the wavy water.

**6. The poet beautifully compares the fog to a cat. Choose any two animals from 'How to Tell Wild Animals' that do not have qualities that can be drawn out to be compared with a fog.**

**Answer:** Yes, I totally agree with the poet's comparison of fog to a cat. The poet compared the sneaky, and silent movements of a cat to the movement of the fog. The way a cat walks into a place with its padded paws without making any noise and sits there on its "haunches" silently, fog too enters the city silently and stays there for a short time. Fog moves out of the city in the same quiet manner as the cat that moves silently without anybody noticing her absence. Any other image or animal would not have done justice to the poem as the movements of a cat perfectly define that of fog. 'How Tell Wild Animals' that do not have qualities that can be drawn out to be compared with a fog are the Asian Lion and the Bear. Both of these animals have a huge and terrible built. Their presence can never be unnoticed. One can notice them from a far distance Moreover, the loud roar of the Asian Lion and the black colour the Bear can easily attract everyone's attention.

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

**Answer:** None can deny the fact that after every nightfall, there is sunshine. In other words, sorrows follow happiness. Life has many ups and downs. We must all accept that problems as a part of life. We should strengthen ourselves so much that we can face them and stand up to solve these problems. We should not get carried away. We should learn that time and tide wait for none. Fog is also symbolic of darkness but it comes quietly like a cat and goes away. It symbolizes that if we are not disturbed by difficulties then life will itself move to the lighter side and things will be easy to confront. We should always remember that we must face all the problems boldly.

**8. How is the fog like a cat?**

**Answer:** The poet draws a captivating comparison between the fog and a cat, finding striking similarities in their behavior. The poet observes that the fog arrives with a sense of stealth, akin to the quiet movements of a cat. As the fog settles, it takes on a posture reminiscent of a cat, sitting and silently observing the harbor and city. This resemblance becomes more apparent as the fog, like a cat, eventually moves on to find a new location, highlighting the appropriateness of likening the fog to the furtive and transient nature of a cat's presence. The poet's keen observations emphasize the parallel between these two seemingly disparate entities, weaving a vivid tapestry of imagery that enhances our understanding of the fog's character.

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

**Answer:** The poet delights in nature, particularly in the uniqueness of fog. He not only writes about it but also discovers its resemblance to a cat, showcasing a deep connection to the natural world. This observation serves as a motivation for others to appreciate and find intriguing connections in the seemingly ordinary aspects of nature, encouraging a closer bond with the environment.

**10. Why does the poet use the phrase "silent haunches"? Substantiate your answer with reference to the poem "Fog".**

**Answer:** The poet employs "silent haunches" to depict the stealthy presence of fog as it sits over the city and harbor. This phrase mirrors the quiet posture of a cat on its bent knees. Much like a cat goes unnoticed, the fog hovers silently over the city without attracting attention.