

Fog

In this poem, the poet has beautifully shown how the fog comes stealing forward just like a cat does. Just as the cat sits on its haunches, the fog too seems to be sitting quietly watching the harbour and the city and then quietly moves onwards.

The poet Carl Sandburg gives a wonderful comparison between the fog and a kitten. When it arrives, it is so slow that you hardly notice it until you see or feel it. The same happens with the fog. No body can predict about the arrival of fog. Fog arrives quietly and engulfs the entire place and stay on for some time. It creates troubles for everyone but stays there. It is not aware of what is happening around it. Fog causes many hurdles and incidents but it does not stay at one place for a long time. [After some time, when problems are over, the fog also disappears and it becomes clear all around.] As problems are over in due course of time' in the same manner fog also disappears and it becomes clear all around.

NCERT Solutions

Thinking About the Poem (Page 115)

Question 1.

1. What does Sandburg think the fog is like?
2. How does the fog come?
3. What does 'it' in the third line refer to? CBSE 2012
4. Does the poet actually say that the fog is like a cat? Find three things that tell us that the fog is like a cat. say that the fog is like a cat? Find three things that tell us that the fog is like a cat.

Answer:

1. Sandburg thinks that the fog is like a cat.
2. The fog comes silently like a cat on its small feet.
3. 'It' refers to fog.
4. The poet does not actually say that the fog is like a cat, but he uses the metaphor of cat for comparison.

Three things that tell us that the fog is like a cat are:

- It comes silently like a cat on its small feet.
- It looks over like a cat.
- It sits on its haunches like a cat.

Question 2.

You know that a metaphor compares two things by transferring a feature of one thing to the other.

1. Find metaphors for the following words and complete the table below. Also try to say how they are alike. The first is done for you.

Storm	Tiger	Pounces over the fields, growls
Train	Snake	Long rope like body
Fire	Sun	Symbol of power
School	Temple	Teaches moral values, virtues
Home	Shelter	Safety, warmth

2. Think about a storm. Try to visualise the force of the storm, hear the sound of the storm, feel the power of the storm and the sudden calm that happens afterwards. Write a poem about the storm comparing it with an animal.

Answer:

Do it yourself.

Extra Questions

Short Answer Type

Question 1.

How does a cat behave?

Answer:

A cat is very quiet. It comes quietly and stealthily on its little padded feet. It sits on the haunches and observes the city and the harbour. Then, it moves on silently without making any noise.

Question 2.

How is the fog like a cat?

Answer:

The poet finds the fog like a cat. The fog comes stealthily like a cat. It sits looking over the harbour and city as a cat does. Later, it moves on just like a cat to settle somewhere else. These things prove that the fog's comparison to a cat is appropriate.

Question 3.

How does the fog spread over the harbour and the city?

Answer:

The fog-comes to a city stealthily just like a cat. It makes no noise. It spreads over the harbour and the city and settles over them for sometimes. There, it rises high and moves away. In this way the fog arrives over a city, observes it and then leaves it to move away.

Question 4.

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

Answer:

None can deny that 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 are able to 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 symbolises that if we are not disturbed by difficulties then life will itself move to lighter side and things will be easy to confront. We should always remember that, we must face all the problems boldly.

Question 5.

Write the central idea of the poem "Fog".

Answer:

The poet Carl Sandburg in his poem 'Fog' describes fog as a cat. Fog is treated to be a living creature. Fog comes quietly and stealthily like a cat. Fog sits looking over the harbour like a cat does. Then it moves to settle somewhere else. Just as cat doesn't settle at one place and in the same way fog keeps on moving and finally vanishes.

Question 6.

The poet is able to visualize the image of a cat in the fog. Similarly there is an inseparable connection between nature and all creations in it. Based on the reading of the poem, write a paragraph on the topic—"God lives in His creations in nature".

Answer:

God is omnipresent and nature is a gift of God to us. Nature has both, the power to sanctify and power to destroy. He makes his presence which provides us with the vital oxygen, the food that grows beneath and above the ground, the water that satisfies our thirst etc. He has made everything and everyone with a purpose and he lives in all of them. Nature cannot exist on its own. It is because God's reflection falls on each of his creation that we, mere mortals survive and thrive on this planet. Thus, we must always respect, love, and care for all of God's creations.

Question 6.

(i) What does Sandburg think the fog is like?

(ii) How does the fog come?

(iii) What does 'it' in the third line refer to?

(iv) Does the poet actually say that the fog is like a cat? Find three things that tell us that the fog is like a cat.

Answer:

(i) According to Sandburg, the fog is like a cat.

(ii) The fog comes on little cat's feet.

(iii) In the third line 'it' refers to the fog that has covered the city and it seems as if it is looking over the city like a cat.

(iv) No, the poet does not actually say that the fog is like a cat. However, he has used cat as a metaphor for describing the fog. He says that the fog comes on its little cat feet, which implies that the fog, like a cat, comes slowly. He also says that the fog looks over the harbour and the city and then moves on, implying that the fog has covered the city and is sitting and looking at it, thereby again comparing it to a cat.

This is reiterated when he says that the fog looks over the city sitting on 'silent haunches'. This also shows the reference to a cat as a cat always sits with its knees bent. Hence, he has compared the fog to a cat without actually saying so.

Question 7.

You know that a metaphor compares two things by transferring a feature of one thing to the other (See Unit 1).

(i) Find metaphors for the following words and complete the table below. Also try to say how they are alike. The first is done for you.

Storm	tiger	pounces over the fields, growls
Train		
Fire		
School		
Home		
Storm	tiger	pounces over the fields, growls
Train	Gush of wind	Very fast movement
Fire	Anger	Danger that surrounds both on the basis of their intensities.

School	Gateway	Leads to adulthood and a life of responsibility.
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Home	Nest	Provides hospitable, loving environment.
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Question 8.

Does this poem have a rhyme scheme? Poetry that does not have an obvious rhythm or rhyme is called 'free verse'.

Answer:

No, this poem does not have a rhyme scheme. It is written in 'free verse'

Reference to Context

Read the following stanza and answer the questions that follow:

Question 1.

The Fog comes on little cat feet.

- (i) Name the poem and poet.
- (ii) How does the fog come?
- (iii) Who is the fog compared to?
- (iv) What is the meaning of the phrase "Little cat feet"?

Answer:

- (i) These lines have been taken from the poem 'Fog' composed by Carl Sandburg.
- (ii) The fog comes stealthily.
- (iii) The fog is compared to cat.
- (iv) Fog comes stealthily and silently, as a cat. Therefore the arrival of fog is described as if it is coming like a walking cat.

Question 2.

It sits looking over harbour and city on silent haunches and then moves on.

- (i) What does 'it' refer to?
- (ii) Where does it settle over?
- (iii) What is 'it' compared to?
- (iv) Name the poem and poet.

Answer:

- (i) It refers to the fog.
- (ii) 'It' settles over the harbour and the city.
- (iii) 'It' is compared to the cat.
- (iv) The poem "Fog" composed by "Carl Sandburg".