

Class X - English

**A Tiger in the Zoo**

# CBSE NOTES

## **A Tiger in the Zoo - Quick Look Revision Guide**

*Your 1-page summary of the most exam-relevant takeaways from First Flight.*



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# Key Points

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## 1. Contrast between tiger in zoo vs. jungle.

The poem contrasts the tiger's life in captivity with its natural habitat, highlighting its constrained movements in the zoo versus its freedom in the jungle.

## 2. Tiger's movements in the cage.

In the zoo, the tiger moves quietly on 'pads of velvet', showing its suppressed rage and limited space to 'stalk'.

## 3. Tiger's potential life in the wild.

The poet imagines the tiger lurking in shadows, sliding through grass, and terrorizing villages, showcasing its natural behaviors.

## 4. Use of vivid imagery.

Descriptions like 'vivid stripes' and 'brilliant eyes' create strong visual images, enhancing the poem's emotional impact.

## 5. Repetition for emphasis.

Phrases like 'quiet rage' and 'brilliant stars' are repeated to emphasize the tiger's emotions and the contrast between its reality and desires.

## 6. Symbolism of the cage.

The 'concrete cell' symbolizes confinement and loss of freedom, contrasting with the tiger's natural strength and majesty.

## **7. Tiger's interaction with visitors.**

The tiger ignores zoo visitors, indicating its disdain for captivity and longing for the wild.

## **8. Nighttime observations.**

At night, the tiger hears patrol cars and stares at stars, symbolizing its yearning for freedom and connection with nature.

## **9. Theme of freedom vs. captivity.**

The central theme explores the tiger's loss of freedom and the unnaturalness of its zoo habitat compared to the wild.

## **10. Poet's message on animal rights.**

The poem subtly critiques zoos and human interference in wildlife, advocating for animals' right to live freely.

## **11. Emotional tone of the poem.**

The tone shifts from anger to sadness, reflecting the tiger's frustration and resignation to its fate.

## **12. Use of alliteration.**

Phrases like 'stalks in his vivid stripes' use alliteration to enhance the poem's musical quality and imagery.

## **13. Contrast in settings.**

The zoo's artificial environment starkly contrasts with the jungle's natural beauty, emphasizing the tiger's displacement.

#### **14. Tiger's 'quiet rage'.**

This phrase captures the tiger's suppressed anger and helplessness in captivity, a key emotional highlight.

#### **15. Role of the water hole.**

In the wild, the water hole is a vital place for the tiger to hunt, symbolizing its natural instincts and survival skills.

#### **16. Impact of human presence.**

The poem reflects on how human actions, like building zoos, disrupt animal lives and natural behaviors.

#### **17. Tiger's strength behind bars.**

The imagery of the tiger's strength 'behind bars' underscores the irony and tragedy of its captivity.

#### **18. Staring at the stars.**

This act symbolizes the tiger's unfulfilled desires and its spiritual connection to the wild, despite physical confinement.

#### **19. Poetic devices used.**

The poem employs metaphors, similes, and personification to deepen the reader's empathy for the tiger.

#### **20. Message on conservation.**

While critiquing zoos, the poem also raises awareness about wildlife conservation and ethical treatment of animals.

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