

Class X - English

Fog

# CBSE NOTES

## Fog - Mastery Worksheet

*Advance your understanding through integrative and tricky questions.*



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# Mastery Questions

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## 1. How does Carl Sandburg use the metaphor of a cat to describe the fog? Provide examples from the poem.

*Hint: Look for actions in the poem that a cat might also do.*

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**Solution:** Carl Sandburg compares the fog to a cat through several behaviors: the fog comes 'on little cat feet,' suggesting quiet and stealth; it 'sits looking over harbour and city on silent haunches,' indicating a calm, observant presence; and then 'moves on,' showing a transient nature, much like a cat. These comparisons highlight the fog's quiet, mysterious, and temporary presence.

## 2. Explain the significance of the fog's movement in the poem. How does this contribute to the overall mood?

*Hint: Consider how the fog's actions affect the atmosphere of the poem.*

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**Solution:** The fog's movement—coming silently, sitting, and then moving on—creates a mood of quiet observation and transient beauty. It mirrors the way a cat moves: silently and unpredictably, adding a sense of mystery and calm to the scene. This contributes to a contemplative and serene mood in the poem.

## 3. Compare the fog in Sandburg's poem to another natural phenomenon (e.g., rain, wind) using a metaphor. How are they alike and different?

*Hint: Think about the characteristics of the natural phenomena and how they behave.*

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**Solution:** If we compare fog to rain using the metaphor of a dancer, rain could be seen as a tap dancer—loud, rhythmic, and energetic—while fog is like a ballet dancer—quiet, graceful, and subtle. Both are forms of precipitation that affect the environment, but their impacts and the moods they create are vastly different.

## 4. Analyze the structure of 'Fog.' How does the free verse form contribute to the poem's theme?

*Hint: Consider how the form of the poem reflects its content.*

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**Solution:** The free verse structure of 'Fog,' without a strict rhyme scheme or meter, mirrors the unpredictable and formless nature of fog itself. This lack of constraint allows the poem to flow naturally, much like fog moves and settles, enhancing the theme of transient beauty and quiet observation.

## 5. What emotions does the poem 'Fog' evoke? Discuss how Sandburg's imagery contributes to these emotions.

*Hint: Focus on the sensory details and how they make you feel.*

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**Solution:** The poem evokes a sense of calm, mystery, and fleeting beauty. Sandburg's imagery of the fog moving like a cat on silent haunches creates a peaceful yet enigmatic atmosphere, inviting readers to pause and observe the quiet moments in nature.

## 6. How does the poem 'Fog' reflect the characteristics of modern poetry? Provide examples.

*Hint: Think about how modern poetry differs from classical poetry.*

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**Solution:** 'Fog' reflects modern poetry's characteristics through its use of free verse, concise language, and a focus on ordinary subjects portrayed in a new light. The poem's brevity and vivid imagery (e.g., 'little cat feet') exemplify modern poetry's departure from traditional forms and themes.

## 7. Discuss the role of personification in 'Fog.' How does it enhance the poem's meaning?

*Hint: Consider how attributing human or animal traits to the fog affects your understanding.*

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**Solution:** Personification in 'Fog'—giving the fog cat-like qualities—enhances the poem by making the natural phenomenon more relatable and vivid. It allows readers to visualize the fog's movements and presence more clearly, deepening the emotional and sensory impact of the poem.

## 8. Imagine the fog as a character in a story. Describe its personality based on the poem.

*Hint: Think about the fog's actions and what they imply about its 'personality.'*

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**Solution:** If the fog were a character, it would be quiet, observant, and mysterious. It moves softly and doesn't stay in one place for long, suggesting a curious but elusive nature. Its silent presence over the city and harbor indicates a watchful, almost protective demeanor.

## 9. How does Sandburg's depiction of fog differ from traditional descriptions of weather phenomena in poetry?

*Hint: Compare Sandburg's approach to more dramatic weather descriptions in classical poetry.*

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**Solution:** Traditional descriptions of weather phenomena often emphasize their power or destructiveness, using grandiose language. Sandburg's depiction of fog is understated and gentle, focusing on its quiet, almost playful nature. This fresh perspective challenges conventional portrayals and invites readers to see beauty in subtlety.

## 10. Write a short poem or paragraph describing another weather phenomenon using a metaphor, inspired by Sandburg's 'Fog.'

*Hint: Choose a weather phenomenon and think of an animal or object it resembles in behavior.*

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**Solution:** Example: The wind is a whispering thief, sneaking through the trees, stealing leaves and secrets with equal ease. It dances invisible, a ghostly breeze, leaving only rustles and memories.

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### Speed Tip:

Use bullet points when writing long answers to save time.

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