

Class X - English

First Flight

How to Tell Wild Animals

CBSE NOTES

How to Tell Wild Animals - Practice Worksheet

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Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

1. How does the poet suggest identifying the Asian Lion in the poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals'?

Hint: Focus on the description of the lion's appearance and behavior in the poem.

2. Describe the method to identify a Bengal Tiger as per the poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals'.

Hint: Look for the lines describing the tiger's stripes and the consequence of meeting one.



Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

3. What humorous advice does the poet give for identifying a leopard in 'How to Tell Wild Animals'?

Hint: Note the description of the leopard's spots and the reaction to its attack.

4. How does the poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals' describe identifying a bear?

Hint: Focus on the interaction described between the person and the bear.



Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

5. What distinguishes a crocodile from a hyena in the poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals'?

Hint: Look for the lines about the animals' expressions and behaviors.

6. How is the chameleon described in 'How to Tell Wild Animals'?

Hint: Focus on the physical description and the final clue about the tree.



Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

7. What is the significance of the poet's use of incorrect spellings like 'lept' and 'lep' in 'How to Tell Wild Animals'?

Hint: Consider how the spellings affect the poem's tone and imagery.

8. How does the poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals' use humor to convey its message?

Hint: Look for examples of exaggeration, wordplay, and absurdity in the poem.



Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

9. What role does rhyme play in 'How to Tell Wild Animals'?

Hint: Examine how rhyming words contribute to the poem's tone and humor.

10. How does 'How to Tell Wild Animals' reflect on human perceptions of wild animals?

Hint: Consider the cultural stereotypes and myths referenced in the poem.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

1. How does the poet suggest identifying the Asian Lion in the poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals'?

Solution: The poet suggests that if you are in the jungles of the east and a large, tawny beast advances towards you, roaring as you're dying, it is the Asian Lion. This humorous identification method highlights the lion's majestic and fearsome nature. The poet uses exaggeration to emphasize the danger posed by the lion, making it a memorable way to identify the animal. The mention of 'dying' adds a dark humor element, suggesting that by the time you identify the lion, it might be too late. This method, while not practical, serves to engage the reader with the poem's playful tone.

2. Describe the method to identify a Bengal Tiger as per the poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals'.

Solution: According to the poem, a Bengal Tiger can be identified by its noble appearance, with black stripes on a yellow background. The poet humorously adds that if the beast eats you upon greeting, it confirms it's a Bengal Tiger. This exaggerated scenario underscores the tiger's predatory nature and the danger it poses. The poet's use of humor makes the identification method memorable, though it's clearly not meant to be taken literally. The contrast between the tiger's noble appearance and its fierce behavior is highlighted, adding to the poem's playful tone.

3. What humorous advice does the poet give for identifying a leopard in 'How to Tell Wild Animals'?

Solution: The poet advises that if you see a beast with a hide peppered with spots, and it leaps on you, it's a leopard. The humor lies in the poet's suggestion that roaring in pain won't help, as the leopard will only continue to leap. This exaggerated scenario serves to highlight the leopard's agility and persistence. The poet's playful tone turns a potentially frightening encounter into a humorous one, making the poem engaging. The advice, while impractical, effectively conveys the leopard's characteristics in a memorable way.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

4. How does the poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals' describe identifying a bear?

Solution: The poem describes a bear as a creature that hugs you very hard when you meet it in your yard. The poet humorously adds that if you have any doubts, the bear will give you one more caress. This 'bearhug' is a playful reference to the bear's strength and the danger it poses. The poet's use of the word 'caress' contrasts with the bear's potentially deadly hug, adding to the poem's humorous tone. This method of identification, while not serious, effectively captures the bear's nature in a light-hearted manner.

5. What distinguishes a crocodile from a hyena in the poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals'?

Solution: The poem distinguishes a crocodile from a hyena by their expressions: hyenas come with merry smiles, while crocodiles weep. This references the popular notions of 'laughing hyenas' and 'crocodile tears.' The poet uses these stereotypes to create a humorous and memorable way to tell the two animals apart. The contrast between the hyena's apparent happiness and the crocodile's false sadness adds to the poem's playful tone. This method, while based on myths, serves to engage the reader with the poem's whimsical approach to animal identification.

6. How is the chameleon described in 'How to Tell Wild Animals'?

Solution: The chameleon is described as a small, lizard-like creature with no ears or wings. The poet humorously notes that if there's nothing on the tree, it's the chameleon you see, playing on the animal's ability to blend into its surroundings. This description highlights the chameleon's unique characteristics and its camouflage skills. The poet's playful tone makes the chameleon's identification method amusing and memorable. The absence of ears and wings is exaggerated for humorous effect, adding to the poem's light-hearted approach.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

7. What is the significance of the poet's use of incorrect spellings like 'lept' and 'lep' in 'How to Tell Wild Animals'?

Solution: The poet's use of incorrect spellings like 'lept' and 'lep' adds to the poem's humorous and playful tone. These creative liberties with language make the poem more engaging and memorable. The misspellings mimic the sound and action of the leopard leaping, enhancing the imagery. This technique shows the poet's willingness to bend language rules for effect, contributing to the poem's whimsical charm. It also encourages readers to focus on the sounds and rhythms of the words, adding to the poem's auditory appeal.

8. How does the poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals' use humor to convey its message?

Solution: The poem uses humor through exaggerated scenarios, playful language, and absurd identification methods. For example, the idea of identifying an animal by whether it eats you adds a darkly comic twist. The poet's creative spellings and rhymes contribute to the light-hearted tone. The humorous approach makes the poem entertaining while subtly teaching about animal characteristics. This blend of education and entertainment ensures the poem's message is both memorable and enjoyable.

9. What role does rhyme play in 'How to Tell Wild Animals'?

Solution: Rhyme in 'How to Tell Wild Animals' enhances the poem's musicality and memorability. The poet uses rhyme to create a rhythmic flow that makes the poem enjoyable to read aloud. For instance, 'dyin' and 'lion' are paired in a way that plays with pronunciation for humorous effect. The consistent rhyme scheme contributes to the poem's playful tone and helps reinforce its humorous content. This use of rhyme makes the poem more engaging and accessible to readers.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

10. How does 'How to Tell Wild Animals' reflect on human perceptions of wild animals?

Solution: The poem reflects human perceptions of wild animals through stereotypes and humor. It plays on common fears and myths, like the lion's roar or the crocodile's tears, to create exaggerated identification methods. This approach highlights how humans often view wild animals as dangerous or mysterious. The poem's humor serves to both entertain and critique these perceptions, showing how they can be oversimplified or exaggerated. By doing so, the poem invites readers to think about how we understand and relate to the natural world.



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