

Class X - English

First Flight

The Tale of Custard the Dragon

# CBSE NOTES

## The Tale of Custard the Dragon - Challenge Worksheet

*Strengthen your foundation with key concepts and basic applications.*



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

**1. Analyze the character of Custard the Dragon in contrast to the other pets in Belinda's house. What does this contrast reveal about the theme of bravery?**

**Hint:** Consider how each pet's behavior changes when the pirate appears.

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**2. Evaluate the use of humor in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'. How does it contribute to the poem's overall message?**

**Hint:** Think about the irony in the pets' actions versus their claims.

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

**3. Discuss the significance of the pirate's appearance in the poem. How does this event serve as a turning point for Custard's character?**

**Hint:** Consider how the pirate's threat changes the dynamics among the characters.

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**4. How does the poet use poetic devices to enhance the narrative of 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'? Provide examples.**

**Hint:** Look for comparisons, repeated sounds, and words that imitate sounds.

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

**5. Interpret the ending of the poem where Custard agrees that everyone is braver than him. What does this suggest about his character?**

**Hint:** Consider whether Custard's statement is sincere or ironic.

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**6. Compare 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' to traditional ballads. How does it subvert or adhere to the ballad form?**

**Hint:** Think about the characteristics of traditional ballads and how this poem differs.

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

## 7. What role does Belinda play in the poem? How does her character influence the story's outcome?

**Hint:** Consider Belinda's actions and how they compare to her pets'.

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## 8. Explore the theme of appearance vs. reality in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'. How is this theme developed through the characters?

**Hint:** Look at how each character's outward behavior contrasts with their actions in crisis.

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

**9. How does the setting contribute to the poem's mood and themes? Consider the 'little white house' and its inhabitants.**

**Hint:** Think about how the setting changes with the pirate's arrival.

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**10. Reflect on the moral or lesson of 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'. How might this lesson be applicable in real-life situations?**

**Hint:** Consider how the poem's message could influence one's behavior or perceptions.

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Check your answers with the solutions below.

## 1. Analyze the character of Custard the Dragon in contrast to the other pets in Belinda's house. What does this contrast reveal about the theme of bravery?

**Solution:** Custard's initial cowardice, juxtaposed with the other pets' proclaimed bravery, highlights the poem's theme that true bravery isn't about appearances but actions. When faced with real danger, Custard acts bravely, while the others flee. This suggests that bravery is situational and not just a trait one boasts about.

## 2. Evaluate the use of humor in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'. How does it contribute to the poem's overall message?

**Solution:** The humor, through exaggerated descriptions and ironic situations, lightens the poem's tone while underscoring its message about bravery. The pets' boasts versus their actual behavior when the pirate arrives creates a comedic contrast that reinforces the idea that true courage is proven in action, not words.

## 3. Discuss the significance of the pirate's appearance in the poem. How does this event serve as a turning point for Custard's character?

**Solution:** The pirate's intrusion is the climax that tests the characters' bravery. Custard, previously seen as cowardly, is the only one to confront the pirate, proving his courage. This moment transforms Custard's character from a figure of ridicule to the hero, challenging initial perceptions of bravery.

## 4. How does the poet use poetic devices to enhance the narrative of 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'? Provide examples.

**Solution:** The poet employs similes ('as brave as a barrel full of bears'), alliteration ('Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon'), and onomatopoeia ('Meowch! cried Ink') to create vivid imagery and rhythm. These devices make the poem more engaging and help convey the characters' traits and actions more dynamically.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

## 5. Interpret the ending of the poem where Custard agrees that everyone is braver than him. What does this suggest about his character?

**Solution:** Custard's agreement could be seen as humility or a return to his modest self, despite having proven his bravery. It may also critique how society often overlooks true bravery in favor of loud boasts, as Custard's heroism doesn't change his peers' perceptions.

## 6. Compare 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' to traditional ballads. How does it subvert or adhere to the ballad form?

**Solution:** While the poem follows the ballad structure with its narrative style and rhythmic pattern, it subverts traditional themes by focusing on humor and an unconventional hero. Unlike typical ballads that celebrate clear heroes, this poem plays with the idea of who the real hero is.

## 7. What role does Belinda play in the poem? How does her character influence the story's outcome?

**Solution:** Belinda is the owner of the pets and initially seems to embody bravery. However, her reaction to the pirate shows her vulnerability. Her character sets up the contrast between perceived and actual bravery, culminating in Custard's unexpected heroism.

## 8. Explore the theme of appearance vs. reality in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'. How is this theme developed through the characters?

**Solution:** The theme is developed through the disparity between the pets' appearances (or self-proclaimed traits) and their actions. Custard, despite his fearsome appearance, is initially cowardly, while the others, less intimidating, boast of bravery but fail to act when needed.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

## 9. How does the setting contribute to the poem's mood and themes? Consider the 'little white house' and its inhabitants.

**Solution:** The quaint, almost idyllic setting of the little white house contrasts with the sudden intrusion of the pirate, creating a shift from safety to danger. This contrast heightens the theme of bravery being tested in unexpected circumstances.

## 10. Reflect on the moral or lesson of 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'. How might this lesson be applicable in real-life situations?

**Solution:** The poem teaches that true bravery is shown in actions, not words, and that appearances can be deceiving. This lesson is applicable in real life, reminding us not to judge others based on first impressions and to value quiet courage over loud boasts.



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