

Class X - English

First Flight

The Tale of Custard the Dragon

# CBSE NOTES

## The Tale of Custard the Dragon - Mastery 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. Compare and contrast the bravery of Belinda and her pets with that of Custard the Dragon. Use examples from the poem to support your answer.**

**Hint:** Focus on the descriptions of each character's bravery and their actions during the pirate's attack.

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**2. Analyze the use of poetic devices in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'. Identify at least three devices and explain their effect on the poem.**

**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.

**3. Discuss the theme of appearance vs. reality in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'. How does the poem challenge initial perceptions of the characters?**

**Hint:** Consider how the characters' actions contradict their initial descriptions.

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**4. Explain the significance of the refrain in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'. How does it contribute to the poem's structure and meaning?**

**Hint:** Note how the refrain changes slightly by the end and what that might signify.

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

## 5. How does the poet use humor in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'? Provide examples and explain their effect.

**Hint:** Look for over-the-top descriptions and situations where expectations are subverted.

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## 6. Describe the character of Custard the Dragon. How does he defy the typical dragon stereotype?

**Hint:** Compare Custard's actions with traditional dragon characteristics.

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

**7. What role does the pirate play in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'? How does his appearance change the dynamics among the characters?**

**Hint:** Consider how the characters react to the pirate's arrival.

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**8. Examine the rhyme scheme and rhythm of 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'. How do they contribute to the poem's ballad-like quality?**

**Hint:** Identify the pattern of rhymes and the meter in a few stanzas.

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

**9. How does the poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' use imagery to create vivid pictures in the reader's mind? Provide examples.**

**Hint:** Look for descriptions that appeal to the senses.

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**10. Reflect on the ending of 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'. Why do you think Custard continues to cry for a 'nice safe cage' despite his heroism?**

**Hint:** Consider what Custard's persistence says about his character and the poem's themes.

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Check your answers with the solutions below.

## 1. Compare and contrast the bravery of Belinda and her pets with that of Custard the Dragon. Use examples from the poem to support your answer.

**Solution:** Belinda and her pets (Ink, Blink, and Mustard) are described as brave in the poem, with comparisons like 'as brave as a barrel full of bears' and 'as brave as a tiger in a rage'. However, their bravery is more about appearances and boasts, as they flee when the pirate arrives. Custard, on the other hand, is initially called a coward for wanting a 'nice safe cage', but he is the one who actually confronts and defeats the pirate, showing real bravery. This contrast highlights the theme that true bravery isn't about appearances but about actions in the face of danger.

## 2. Analyze the use of poetic devices in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'. Identify at least three devices and explain their effect on the poem.

**Solution:** The poem uses several poetic devices, including simile ('as brave as a barrel full of bears'), alliteration ('Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon'), and onomatopoeia ('Meowch! cried Ink'). These devices enhance the poem's humorous and lively tone, making the characters and actions more vivid and engaging for the reader.

## 3. Discuss the theme of appearance vs. reality in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'. How does the poem challenge initial perceptions of the characters?

**Solution:** The poem plays with the theme of appearance vs. reality by initially presenting Belinda and her pets as brave and Custard as cowardly. However, when faced with real danger, Custard is the only one who acts bravely, while the others flee. This reversal challenges the reader's initial perceptions and suggests that true bravery isn't about how one appears but how one acts in critical moments.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

## 4. Explain the significance of the refrain in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'. How does it contribute to the poem's structure and meaning?

**Solution:** The refrain, repeating descriptions of Belinda's household and the characters' bravery, serves to emphasize the poem's humorous tone and the contrast between the characters' boasts and their actual behavior. It also structures the poem, marking the beginning and end and reinforcing the cyclical nature of the story, where despite Custard's heroism, he is still seen as a coward.

## 5. How does the poet use humor in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'? Provide examples and explain their effect.

**Solution:** The poet uses humor through exaggerated descriptions (like Custard's 'realio, trulio daggers on his toes'), ironic situations (the 'brave' pets fleeing while the 'cowardly' dragon fights), and playful language (such as the pets' mocking of Custard). This humor makes the poem entertaining while also subtly critiquing the idea of judging bravery by appearances.

## 6. Describe the character of Custard the Dragon. How does he defy the typical dragon stereotype?

**Solution:** Custard the Dragon defies the typical dragon stereotype, which usually portrays dragons as fierce and fearless. Instead, Custard is initially depicted as cowardly, desiring a 'nice safe cage'. However, he proves to be brave when it matters, showing that stereotypes can be misleading and that true courage doesn't need to be loud or boastful.

## 7. What role does the pirate play in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'? How does his appearance change the dynamics among the characters?

**Solution:** The pirate serves as the antagonist whose appearance tests the characters' bravery. His intrusion forces Belinda and her pets to confront their own fears, revealing their previously boasted bravery as superficial. Custard, however, rises to the occasion, defeating the pirate and proving his worth, thus shifting the group's dynamics and highlighting the theme of true bravery.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

## 8. Examine the rhyme scheme and rhythm of 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'. How do they contribute to the poem's ballad-like quality?

**Solution:** The poem follows a consistent rhyme scheme and rhythm, typical of ballads, which helps to create a musical, storytelling quality. This structure makes the poem more engaging and easier to remember, enhancing its appeal as a humorous tale. The rhythm also adds to the light-hearted tone, making the serious theme of bravery more accessible.

## 9. How does the poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' use imagery to create vivid pictures in the reader's mind? Provide examples.

**Solution:** The poem uses vivid imagery to bring its characters and scenes to life, such as describing Custard's 'mouth like a fireplace, chimney for a nose' and the pirate with 'pistol in his left hand, pistol in his right'. These images help the reader visualize the absurd and humorous world of the poem, making the story more immersive and entertaining.

## 10. Reflect on the ending of 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'. Why do you think Custard continues to cry for a 'nice safe cage' despite his heroism?

**Solution:** Custard's continued desire for a 'nice safe cage' at the end of the poem suggests that true bravery doesn't change one's nature or desires. Despite his heroism, Custard remains humble and true to himself, contrasting with the other characters who quickly return to their boastful ways. This ending reinforces the poem's message that bravery is about actions, not appearances or boasts.



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