

Class X - English

First Flight

The Tale of Custard the Dragon

# CBSE NOTES

## The Tale of Custard the Dragon - Revision Guide

*Revise faster with structured summaries, key points, and important ideas.*



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## 1. Ballad form used in the poem.

The poem is written in ballad form, a narrative style that tells a story through verse, often with a rhythmic and rhyming pattern.

## 2. Characters and their pet names.

Belinda lives with Ink (kitten), Blink (mouse), Mustard (dog), and Custard (dragon), each with distinct personalities.

## 3. Custard's description.

Custard is described with big sharp teeth, spikes, scales, and a mouth like a fireplace, contrasting his cowardly nature.

## 4. Custard's cowardice.

Despite his fearsome appearance, Custard is cowardly, often crying for a safe cage, which becomes ironic later.

## 5. Belinda's bravery.

Belinda is portrayed as brave as a barrel full of bears, setting a contrast with Custard's initial cowardice.



## 6. The pirate's intrusion.

A pirate with pistols and a cutlass breaks into the house, causing panic among Belinda and her pets.

## 7. Custard's heroic act.

Custard surprises everyone by bravely attacking and eating the pirate, showcasing his true bravery.

## 8. Reaction of other pets.

After the danger, Mustard, Ink, and Blink claim they would have been braver, highlighting their earlier cowardice.

## 9. Use of similes.

The poem uses similes like 'as brave as a barrel full of bears' to exaggerate characters' traits humorously.

## 10. Humorous tone.

The poem maintains a light-hearted and humorous tone, especially in contrasting Custard's appearance and actions.



## 11. Rhyme scheme.

The poem follows a consistent rhyme scheme, contributing to its musical and narrative quality.

## 12. Repetition for effect.

Phrases like 'realio, trulio' are repeated to emphasize the fantastical elements of the story.

## 13. Custard's final cry.

Despite his heroism, Custard ends the poem crying for a cage, reinforcing the poem's humorous twist.

## 14. Contrast between appearance and reality.

The poem plays with the idea that appearances can be deceiving, as seen in Custard's character.

## 15. Themes of bravery and cowardice.

It explores themes of bravery and cowardice, ultimately suggesting that true bravery can come from unexpected places.

## 16. Use of onomatopoeia.

Words like 'Meowch' and 'Weeck' mimic sounds, adding to the poem's playful tone.



## 17. Character dynamics.

The interactions between Belinda and her pets, especially their teasing of Custard, add depth to the narrative.

## 18. Symbolism of the cage.

The cage symbolizes safety and fear, contrasting with the poem's eventual celebration of unexpected bravery.

## 19. Narrative structure.

The poem's structure builds up to Custard's heroic moment, then reflects on the aftermath, providing a complete story arc.

## 20. Moral of the story.

The poem humorously conveys that bravery isn't about appearances or boasts but about actions in critical moments.



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