

11/4/2023

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The Equivocal

★ Profile of the Poet

- Name - Mildred Bousess Armstrong
- Born - November 11, 1930
- Exo - Modern and Post Modern Period
- Education - Mount Holyoke College, The University of Chicago and The University of Wisconsin
- Notable Works - Favourite Fairy Tales
- Nationality - American
- Passed Away - February 20, 2017 (aged 86)

I Glossary

1. Wore - put on
2. over coat - long loose coat
3. interrogation - question
4. other way - opposite direction

II Synonym & Antonym

Word	Synonym	Antonym
① Overcoat	top coat	under coat
② Tease	make fun of, mock	Delight, Bribe
③ Interrogation	question, cross examination	trustful, unperplexed

III Literary Devices of the poem

- ① Personification: The attribution of a personal nature a human characteristics to something non human. Ex - He wore a question mark as a tie
- ② Alliteration: Repetition of similar sounds at the beginning of words. Ex - He went the other way.
- ③ Atmosphere of the poem/Mood - Cheerful and expressive

4. Writing - Resembles the attitude of a child.

5. Form - Descriptive and Narrative

IV. Answer the following Questions

① What does the poetess mean by these lines "He liked to tease and play, And if we ran around his tree, He went the other way."

Ans. The poetess portrays the squirrel as a playful and mischievous creature. The lines convey that the squirrel has a playful nature, and also showed that he enjoyed teasing people by running in the opposite direction. The squirrel is depicted as a clever animal that enjoys playing. These lines also highlight the childish attitude of the squirrel.

② "He liked to tease and play", who is ~~he~~ teasing whom? How?

Ans. The squirrel is teasing the people who try

to catch him. He is ~~doing this~~ teasing them by running in the opposite direction when the people run around the tree. The squirrel is portrayed as an animal with a sense of humor and intelligence.

③ Narrate the nature of the squirrel as sketched by the poet.

Ans. The ~~squirrel~~ poetess paints a picture of the squirrel's nature as playful and mischievous. He describes the squirrel's tail as a question mark and his fur as a gray coat. The squirrel is depicted as sitting up straight while eating a nut and enjoys the company of people. He likes to tease and play games with people, adding to the fun and enjoyment of the moment. Overall, the poet paints a picture of the squirrel's nature as a playful and a fun-loving creature.

Read the extract and choose the correct answer.

① "He wore a question mark for a tail,
An overcoat of gray,
He sat up straight to eat a nut.
He liked to tease and play,
And if we ran around his tree,
He went the other way."

(i) Choose the word antonym of 'praise'.

- a gray
- b straight
- c ~~tease~~
- d way

(ii) Identify the literary device used in the poem.

- a alliteration, ~~for~~
- b onomatopoeia
- c personification
- d metaphor

(iii) 'Wore a question mark for tail' What does the poet mean by this?

Ans. The poet describes the shape of the squirrel's tail as a question mark.

(iv) Choose the correct sentence which corresponds to the 'squirrel's body'.

- a He went the other way
- b He wore a question mark for tail.
- c An overcoat of gray
- d He liked to tease and play

5. Write the line from the extract in which alliteration is used.

Ans. And if we ran around his tree.

Value Based Question

A squirrel is quick, playful, and mischievous. Do you think there is any similarity between a child's behaviour and that of a squirrel? If

yes, explain with examples of your own

Value Points

- ① Playful
- ② Fun
- ③ Quick
- ④ Mischievous

Ans A squirrel is playful, and in some cases it resembles the behaviour of a child. Both are mischievous, energetic and curious. Squirrels are known for their playful behaviour, such as running and jumping. They are curious creatures, always exploring their surroundings and investigating new objects. They are also known for their quick movements. All these traits are similar to a child, having playful behaviour, tending to move quickly, being mischievous and having a curious nature. There are examples like, running around, playing games, snatching toys from siblings and asking questions about their environment to learn more about the world around them.

The tiny teacher

Glossary

- ① nurseries: rooms meant for tiny babies
- ② antennae: long, thin, sensory attachments on top of the head of insects
- ③ Quarters: A place specified for a particular task
- ④ Barracks: A large building or a group of buildings used to house soldiers
- ⑤ Lyubt: baby ant
- ⑥ seldom: rarely
- ⑦ cocoon: protective layer
- ⑧ drone: male ant