How to Tell Wild Animals – Revision

Notes

Summary

- The poem humorously describes how one can "identify" wild animals.
- Each stanza presents an animal with a playful description:
 - Asiatic Lion → If it roars and kills you, it's a lion.
 - Bengal Tiger → If it leaps on you and eats you, it's a tiger.
 - o Leopard → Attacks repeatedly with great ferocity.
 - o Bear → If it hugs you tightly and you die, it's a bear.
 - o Crocodile → Sheds false tears while eating prey.
 - Hyena → Always laughing while feeding.
- The poem mixes humour, irony, and exaggeration to describe dangerous animals in a light-hearted way.

Theme

- Humour in danger → Deadly animals described comically.
- Satire on nature guides → Exaggerated ways of identifying animals.
- Nature's variety → Each wild animal has unique traits.

Characters / Symbols

- Lion, Tiger, Leopard, Bear, Hyena, Crocodile → Different wild animals with distinct qualities.
- Humour → Represents poet's playful style in teaching identification.

Message of the Poem

Even serious/dangerous things can be presented humorously.

- Wild animals are powerful and should be respected.
- Observation and knowledge help us understand nature better.

Literary Devices

- Humour → Comic way of describing fatal encounters.
- Irony → You only "identify" the animal when it kills/eats you.
- Alliteration → "Leaps like a leopard."
- Imagery → Visual descriptions of attacks by animals.
- Inversion → Change of word order for poetic rhythm.

? Short Questions & Answers

- 1. Who is the poet of How to Tell Wild Animals?
 - **de Carolyn Wells.**
- 2. How can one identify an Asiatic Lion?
 - 👉 By its roar and the fact that it kills you.
- 3. What is the special trait of the Bengal Tiger?
 - 👉 It leaps and eats its prey immediately.
- 4. What is unique about the Leopard's attack?
 - 👉 It attacks repeatedly and fiercely.
- 5. Why does the poet call the crocodile "weeping"?
 - **e** Because it sheds false tears while eating prey.

Long Q&A

Q1. How does Carolyn Wells use humour to describe wild animals in the poem *How to Tell Wild Animals*?

Answer: The poet uses exaggeration and irony to make dangerous animals sound funny. For example, she says you can identify a lion if it kills you, or a bear if it hugs you to death. This humorous style makes the poem entertaining while also helping readers remember the unique features of each animal.

Q2. What is the central idea of the poem *How to Tell Wild Animals*?

Answer: The central idea is to highlight the unique characteristics of wild animals through humour. Instead of a serious description, the poet presents dangerous encounters in a light-hearted way. The poem teaches readers to observe nature's variety while also entertaining them with wit and exaggeration.

Value-Based Q&A

- 1. What lesson does the poem teach students?
 - **To respect nature, understand animal behaviour, and use humour to make learning enjoyable.**
- 2. Why is humour effective in this poem?
 - **because it makes scary topics (wild animals) enjoyable and easy to remember.**