



A Tiger in the Zoo – Revision Notes

Summary

- The poem contrasts a tiger's life in the zoo with its natural life in the forest.
 - In the zoo, the tiger is confined in a cage: helpless, angry, and silent.
 - In the wild, the tiger would roam freely, hunting and living with dignity.
 - The poet highlights the cruelty of captivity and the beauty of freedom.
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Theme

- Freedom vs. Captivity → Wild animals should live in their natural habitat.
 - Powerlessness in captivity → The tiger's strength is wasted in a cage.
 - Human cruelty vs. Nature's dignity → Man's interference destroys natural balance.
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Characters / Symbols

- Tiger → Represents strength, beauty, and dignity of wild creatures.
 - Zoo cage → Symbol of captivity, helplessness.
 - Forest → Symbol of freedom and natural life.
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Message of the Poem





- Animals deserve freedom; they should not be caged for human entertainment.
 - Captivity takes away dignity, strength, and natural instincts.
 - Respect and preserve nature instead of exploiting it.
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Literary Devices

- Alliteration → "He stalks in his vivid stripes."
- Imagery → Visuals of tiger in cage and forest.

- Contrast → Between tiger's life in the zoo and in the wild.
 - Personification → Tiger's feelings of anger, strength, and helplessness are described.
 - Metaphor → Cage represents human control over nature.
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Short Questions & Answers

1. Who is the poet of *A Tiger in the Zoo*?
 Leslie Norris.
 2. How does the poet describe the tiger in the cage?
 Silent, angry, helpless, walking behind bars.
 3. How would the tiger behave in the forest?
 Fierce, free, hunting deer, roaring near houses and villages.
 4. What is the main contrast in the poem?
 Between the tiger's life in captivity and its natural life in the wild.
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Long Q&A

Q1. How does the poem *A Tiger in the Zoo* depict the difference between captivity and freedom?

Answer: The poem shows a tiger trapped in a cage, restless and powerless. Instead of roaming free in the jungle, hunting and roaring, he is forced to walk silently behind bars. The contrast highlights the cruelty of keeping wild animals in captivity. The poet conveys that the dignity and power of a tiger belong to the wild, not in cages.

Q2. What emotions does the tiger in the zoo experience? How is it different from a tiger in the wild?

Answer: In the zoo, the tiger feels anger, frustration, and helplessness. His strength is wasted as he silently walks behind bars. In contrast, a tiger in the wild is confident, powerful, and free. It hunts, roams, and lives fearlessly. The poem emphasizes that captivity destroys natural instincts and dignity.

Value-Based Q&A

1. What lesson does the poem teach students?

👉 To respect animals, protect wildlife, and avoid cruelty by not keeping them in cages.

2. Why is freedom important for all living beings?

👉 Freedom allows growth, dignity, and natural behavior, while captivity causes suffering and helplessness.