



The Tale of Custard the Dragon – Revision Notes

Summary

- The poem tells the humorous story of Belinda and her pets:
 - a little black kitten (Ink),
 - a little grey mouse (Blink),
 - a little yellow dog (Mustard),
 - and a cowardly dragon (Custard).
 - Everyone thought Custard was cowardly because he always wanted a safe cage.
 - The other pets and even Belinda mocked Custard's timidity.
 - But when a pirate attacked Belinda's house, all the brave pets ran away in fear.
 - Surprisingly, Custard, the so-called coward, fought bravely, killed the pirate, and saved everyone.
 - After the danger was gone, everyone praised Custard but soon went back to mocking him, while Custard remained humble and quiet.
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Theme

- True courage vs. Pretended bravery → Those who boast may fail in real danger, while the humble may prove truly brave.
 - Humility → Real heroes don't boast about their bravery.
 - Irony → The "coward" Custard was the real hero.
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Characters

- Belinda – A little girl who lived with her pets.
- Ink (cat) – Considered brave but ran away during danger.
- Blink (mouse) – Same as Ink, pretended to be courageous.

- Mustard (dog) – Showed off bravery but ran away when pirate came.
 - Custard (dragon) – Called cowardly but was truly brave and fought the pirate.
 - Pirate – The villain who attacked but was killed by Custard.
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Message of the Poem

- We should not judge others by appearances or labels.
 - Real courage is shown in times of need, not by empty boasting.
 - True heroes are often humble.
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Literary Devices

- Ballad Form → Storytelling in verse, with rhyme and rhythm.
 - Rhyme Scheme → Mostly *aabb*.
 - Repetition → “Belinda lived in a little white house” repeated for emphasis.
 - Irony → The cowardly dragon turns out to be the bravest.
 - Humour → Comical description of characters and their behavior.
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Short Questions & Answers

1. Who is the poet of *The Tale of Custard the Dragon*?
 Ogden Nash.
2. Who lived with Belinda?
 Ink (cat), Blink (mouse), Mustard (dog), and Custard (dragon).
3. Why was Custard considered a coward?
 Because he always wanted to live in a safe cage.
4. What did the pets do when the pirate attacked?
 They ran away in fear.
5. Who killed the pirate?
 Custard, the dragon.
6. What did Custard do after killing the pirate?
 He stayed humble and did not boast.

Long Q&A

Q1. How is Custard different from other animals in the house?


Answer: Custard was different because he was considered timid and cowardly, always wanting a safe cage. The others pretended to be brave but proved cowardly in real danger. Custard, on the other hand, showed true courage when the pirate attacked. This contrast highlights the difference between false pride and real bravery.

Q2. How does the poem highlight the difference between appearance and reality?

Answer: The poem shows that appearances can be misleading. Ink, Blink, and Mustard appeared brave but ran away during danger. Custard, who appeared cowardly, proved to be the real hero by killing the pirate. Thus, the poem emphasizes that real bravery is revealed in action, not in words.

Value-Based Q&A

1. What values does Custard the Dragon teach us?

 Humility, true courage, and that real heroes don't show off.

2. What can students learn from the poem?

 To never underestimate others, to stay humble, and to show courage when it truly matters.