



# The Tale of Custard the Dragon

1. How does the poem use contrast between appearance and reality in the characters?
2. How does Custard's behavior challenge traditional notions of bravery?
3. How does the poet use humor to explore serious themes like courage and pretense?
4. How do the exaggerated descriptions of Belinda and her pets add to the poem's satire?
5. How does Custard's real bravery expose the hollowness of others' boastfulness?
6. How does the poem highlight human tendency to underestimate the quiet and humble?
7. How does the use of a ballad form make the narrative more engaging?
8. How does rhyme and rhythm contribute to the playful tone of the poem?
9. How does Custard's humility after defeating the pirate deepen his character?
10. How does the poet show that courage is revealed in action, not in words?
11. How does the poem suggest that society often mocks those who are different?
12. How does the contrast between Custard's appearance and his true strength create irony?
13. How do the other animals' reactions reflect human behavior in times of crisis?
14. How does the poet critique the culture of boasting and false bravado?
15. How does the dragon's ultimate victory serve as a lesson about inner strength?
16. How does the repetition of Custard being called a coward reinforce the theme of misjudgment?
17. How does the pirate's sudden arrival serve as a turning point in the narrative?
18. How does the poem convey that real bravery is tested only in difficult situations?
19. How does the humorous storytelling style make the moral lesson more impactful?
20. Why does Custard still wish for a "nice safe cage" despite his bravery, and what does it reveal about his nature?