Vocabulary

Siesta- sleep, rest, nap

Canopy- shelter, roof, shade

Raucous- irritating, disturbing sound

Throes- pain, struggle, suffering, agony

Carcass- dead body, corpse

1. The loud raucous caw- cawing of at least a hundred crows disturbed the narrator’s afternoon siesta.
2. The crows flying and circling the area looked like a black canopy or a big black moving umbrella.
3. The incessant noise and the panicky movements could only mean that the crows were in severe distress and it showed that they were scared.
4. The mother buffalo urged the dead calf to get up by licking it and wished that it would stand up. When the carcass of the dead calf was taken in the bunny bag, the mother Buffalo mooed which became panicky and then dwindled to smaller ones.
5. From the increase in cacophony of the crows, the author guessed that perhaps they were bidding a good bye to a brethren, perhaps they were advising it what to do, sympathising with it or just expressing their shock agony and sorrow.

Key points for précis

Animals and birds express their emotions and feelings but unlike humans. The narrator once sees crows in pain when they see their brethren dying. She remembers how a mother buffalo had urged its dead calf to get up by licking. When the carcass was taken, the mother mooed in panic.