

Madam Rides the Bus

Summary: In this story, the author tries to present a world as seen from a child's perspective. The main character of this story is an eight year old girl who lives near a bus stop in a village. For major part of the day, she enjoys standing in her doorway; watching frenetic activities at the bus stop. Valli develops a desire to enjoy a ride on the bus but she needs to plan meticulously to realize her dream. She has to curtail her expenses so that she can save enough money for two-way fair. She also has to make the journey during the time when her mother takes afternoon nap. While on her journey, Valli does not want anybody's help and wants to feel independent. She enjoys every bit of her journey to the town. But she is careful enough not to get off the bus in the unknown environs of the town. On her return journey, a sad accident spoils her mood and she just keeps to herself throughout the journey. She does not seem to be satisfied with one ride and wishes to make another attempt in future. She is also quite mischievous when she is sure that her mother did not know about her journey.

Question 1: What was Valli's favourite pastime?

Answer: As Valli had no playmate of her age, so her favourite pastime was to stand in her doorway and watch the street. The street outside used to be full of activities which were enough to keep her amused and engaged.

Question 2: What was a source of unending joy for Valli? What was her strongest desire?

Answer: The bus was a source of unending joy for her. The bus used to bring a new set of passengers every-time it came from the town. The diversity of people, their activities were a treat to watch for Valli. Her strongest desire was to take a ride in the bus at least once.

Question 3: What did Valli find out about the bus journey? How did she find out these details?

Answer: Valli tried to listen to her neighbours to get the desired information about the bus journey. She would ask some discrete

questions to get more information. She got information about distance of the town from her village and the total journey time it usually took.

Question 4: What do you think Valli was planning to do?

Answer: Till now information provided in the story indicate towards her plan to fulfill her strongest desire which was to go on a bus ride.

Question 5: Why does the conductor call Valli 'madam'?

Answer: Valli is trying to behave more mature than her age. She is trying to look overconfident and smart. The conductor is amused at her behaviour and in an effort to tease her calls her 'madam'.

Question 6: Why does Valli stand up on the seat? What does she see now?

Answer: Valli's view was obstructed because of a canvas blind on the window and because of her small height as well she was unable to have a good view outside. She stood up on her seat to have a better view of the scenery outside. She could see a canal with palm trees, grasslands, distant mountains and blue sky as backdrop. On the other side there was a ditch followed by vast tract of greenery.

Question 7: What does Valli tell the elderly man when he calls her a child?

Answer: Valli doesn't like to be called a child. She thinks that she is grown up. She says that she had paid her full fair the way adults do. This is typical behaviour shown by many kids of Valli's age.

Question 8: Why didn't Valli want to make friends with the elderly woman?

Answer: The elderly woman was having big earlobes with bigger holes. She chewing betel nut and the betel juice was about to seep out of her mouth. She was giving a sight of unrefined elderly lady. That is why Vaali did not want to make friends with her.

Question 9: How did Valli save up money for her first journey? Was it easy for her?

Answer: Valli saved every coin that came her way. She made great sacrifices by controlling her normal childish urges of having candies, toys and joyrides. This must have been difficult for her. Kids find it very difficult to savour a candy or to enjoy a toy.

Question 10: What did Valli see on her way that made her laugh?

Answer: A scared cow was running for her life in the middle of the road. It was jumping with tails up. The more incessantly bus driver honked the more furious its scamper became. Valli could not control her laughter after seeing this.

Question 11: Why didn't she get off the bus at the bus station?

Answer: She did not know anything about the town so was afraid of getting lost. Moreover, her meticulous savings plan allowed her enough money to buy only tickets for her journey. Additionally, she had to return before her mother could find her missing.

Question 12: Why didn't Valli want to go to the stall and have a drink? What does this tell you about her?

Answer: She did not want to take obligation from the conductor. This indicates that she is taught of not taking anything from strangers. She may be a small child but she knows how to behave properly in the outside world.

Question 13: What was Valli's deepest desire? Find the words and phrases in the story that tell you this.

Answer: Valli's deepest desire was to enjoy a ride on the bus. Terms; like overwhelming desire', 'wistfully', etc. show that Valli was desperate to ride the bus.

Question 14: How did Valli plan her bus ride? What did she find out about the bus, and how did she save up the fare?

Answer: Valli had to plan on two aspects. The first aspect was saving enough money to arrange for two-way fair. The second aspect was to give a slip to her mother because a child of her age would not be allowed to go all alone. She came to know about the distance of the town and total time of journey. She also gathered information about the fair.

Question 15: What kind of a person is Valli? To answer this question, pick out the following sentences from the text and fill in the blanks. The words you fill in are the clues to your answer.

"Stop the bus! Stop the bus!" And a tiny hand was raised *commandingly*. "Yes, I *simply have to* go to town," said Valli, still standing outside the bus.

"There's nobody here *who is a child*," she said haughtily. "I've paid my thirty paise like everyone else.

“Never mind,” she said, “I can get *on by myself*. You don’t have to help me. ”I’m not a child, I tell you,” she said *haughtily*.

“You needn’t bother about me. I *can take care of myself*,” Valli said, turning her face toward the window and staring out.

Then she turned to the conductor and said, “Well, sir, I hope *to see you again*.”

Answer: Valli appears to be a confident child. She does not like people making a fun at her or feeling pity at her because she is a child. She is very careful not to talk to strangers during her journey. She must have enjoyed her bus ride and may be planning for her next sojourn when her budget and time permit.

Question 16: Why does the conductor refer to Valli as ‘madam’?

Answer: The conductor is just trying to make fun at Valli because she is trying to behave like an adult. Many a time, we see small children trying to behave like adult and many of us enjoy this sight.

Question 17: Find the lines in the text which tell you that Valli was enjoying her ride on the bus.

Answer: Valli thoroughly enjoyed her ride. The way she was engrossed in the scenery outside the window shows that she was enjoying every moment of her ride. The most funny incident was of the cow running ahead of the bus. She also enjoyed the luxurious interiors of the bus.

Question 18: Why does Valli refuse to look out of the window on her way back?

Answer: On her way back, Valli witnessed a horrific incidence. The cow which was playful during the onward journey had died in an accident. Valli felt very sad at the plight of the cow. Due to this, she did not like looking out of the window on her way back.

Question 19: What does Valli mean when she says, “I was just agreeing with what you said about things happening without our knowledge.”

Answer: While making this statement, Valli was trying to hide the fact about her bus ride. She was also feeling elated at making a successful attempt at her plan.

Question 20: The author describes the things that Valli sees from an eight-year-old’s point of view. Can you find evidence from the text for this statement?

Answer: There are many incidents which show the world from an eight-year-old's perspective. For example; for an adult the fair of the bus may be peanuts, but for a small child it can be a fortune. Similarly, the way a child can enjoy as simple a thing as a six mile bus ride; can never be understood by most of the adults.

The Tale of Custard the Dragon

There was a girl named Belinda who lived with a little black kitten, a little grey mouse, a little yellow dog and a real little dragon. She was a proud owner of a little red wagon.

The kitten was named as Ink, the mouse as Blink, the dog as Mustard and the dragon as Custard.

Custard the dragon had big sharp teeth, and his scales were full of spikes everywhere. Its mouth was like a fireplace and nose was like chimney of that fireplace. Its toes were like sharp daggers.

Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears. Bears are very stout and fearless animals. Ink and Blink were brave enough to chase a lion.

Mustard was brave like an angry tiger. But Custard was a coward and always wanted to be in a safe nice cage.

Belinda used to tickle the dragon till it hurt. Ink, Blink, Mustard and Belinda used to make fun at the dragon for its cowardice.

Whenever, Custard cried for a nice safe cage then everybody else giggled and laughed at it.

They were enjoying the funny moment with Custard then they heard a nasty sound. They saw a pirate coming towards them. All of them shrieked in horror.

The pirate was looking really menacing. He was holding pistols in both hands, and a bright knife was held between his teeth. One of his legs was made of wood and his beard was horribly black. He was looking real dangerous.

Belinda paled out of fear and started crying for help. All his brave friends fled away from the scene. Mustard yelled and fled. Ink trickled down to the basement the way real ink trickles down to the bottom.

Blink hid strategically in a mousehole.

But Custard jumped and snorted like a live engine. It started clashing its tail tinkling iron in dungeon. It clattered and squirmed its body and jumped at the pirate the way a robin jumps at a tasty worm for meal. The pirate was astonished and gulped something from his pocket. Then he fired two bullets, but they proved useless. Ultimately the dragon gobbled up the pilot and finished him.

After the pirate was finished, everyone appreciated Custard in its own way. Belinda embraced him, Mustard licked him, Ink and Blink danced in happiness.

Then Mustard said that had it not been frightened it would have shown its bravery, similarly Ink and Blink also made tall claims about their bravery. Custard agreed with them that all of them were braver than him. Belinda is still living in her little white house with her friends and her little red wagon. All except Custard still claim to be brave guys. Custard still cries for a nice safe cage.

OGDEN NASH

Introduction to the lesson

Ogden Nash has written a poem about a little girl Belinda who owns many pets, namely, a black kitten named ink, grey mouse named blink, yellow dog named mustard and a coward dragon named custard. The poet has described every character to be brave except the dragon who is a coward. But the whole situation changes when a pirate attacked Belinda's house. No one else had the guts to face him, it was the dragon that killed the pirate. All the characters are happy because they are saved by the dragon but quickly change their thoughts and describe themselves to be more powerful had the situation not been so confusing for all of them.



Summary of the poem

The tale of custard the dragon is a ballad. It is a humorous poem about a cowardly dragon named custard. Custard is a pet of Belinda, a little girl who lives in a little white house with her pets. She had a black kitten named ink, a grey mouse named blink, a yellow dog mustard and a cowardly dragon custard. The poet says that all of them are very brave except the dragon. Others were described as brave and are compared with animals like bear, tiger or lion but the dragon is very timid. He always demands a safe place for himself. All the other characters make fun of him. But one night they are surprised by the entry of a pirate in the house. All of them get frightened and start hiding here and there. But to everyone's surprise, the dragon not only tackles him but also eats him up. As all of them are saved by custard, they thank him. But at the end, they realize that they used to make fun of the dragon because of his being timid. So, all of them suddenly start saying that they are more brave and could have handled the situation in a much better way. Here the poet has tried to say that sometimes a timid person is the actual hero in the toughest situations of life.

Poem and Explanation



Stanza 1

Belinda lived in a little white house,
With a little black kitten and a little grey mouse,
And a little yellow dog and a little red wagon,
And a realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

Wagon: a vehicle used for transporting goods or another specified purpose.

The poet says that once there was a little girl named Belinda. She lived in a little white house. She lived with some creatures who were her pets. They were a black kitten, a grey mouse, a yellow dog, a little red wagon and a creature that the poet says was really and truly a dragon.

Literary Devices:

Rhyme scheme: aabb (house-mouse, wagon-dragon)

Repetition: use of the word 'little'

oxymoron: use of two words with opposite meanings 'pet dragon'

Anaphora: repeated use of word at the start of two consecutive lines. (And a littleAnd a realio)

Refrain: Repetition of a sentence again and again (And a realio, trulio,)

poetic license: realio, trulio for real, true. The spellings have been changed to create a musical effect



Stanza 2

Now the name of the little black kitten was Ink,
And the little grey mouse, she called him Blink,
And the little yellow dog was sharp as Mustard,
But the dragon was a coward, and she called him Custard.

Mustard: a yellow coloured flower

Coward: weakling

The poet explains the name of all the animals that are tamed by Belinda. He says that the name of black kitten is ink. The name of grey mouse is blink. The little yellow dog had yellow colour and so she calls him mustard and the dragon that was a coward means was a weakling was called custard.

Literary Devices:

Rhyme scheme: aabb (ink-blink, mustard-custard)

simile: dog compared to mustard "And the little yellow dog was sharp as Mustard"

Alliteration: "coward, and she called him Custard" - "c" sound

Anaphora: repeated use of word at the start of two consecutive lines (And the little grey...And the little yellow)

Repetition: use of word little



Stanza 3

Custard the dragon had big sharp teeth,
And spikes on top of him and scales underneath,
Mouth like a fireplace, chimney for a nose,
And realio, trulio daggers on his toes.

Spikes: thin pointed surface

Scales: Thin bony plates protecting the skin of fish and reptiles.

Underneath: situated directly below

Fire place: An outdoor structure of brick, stone or metal for an open fire

Dagger: A sharp knife

The poet describes the dragon that it had big sharp teeth and spikes on top. This means that its skin was pointed on the top. On the lower part it had scales which were bony plates to protect the skin. His mouth has been compared to a fireplace because it is assumed that dragons can release fire from the mouth. Even his nose is compared to a chimney which is used to pass out smoke. His feet are like a sharp knife i.e. a dagger.

Literary Devices:

Rhyme scheme: aabb (teeth-underneath, nose-toes)

Simile: Dragon's mouth is compared with fireplace (mouth like a fireplace)

Refrain: Repetition of a sentence again and again (And a realio, trulio,)

Metaphor: "chimney for a nose". The nose is like a chimney.

Stanza 4

Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears,
And Ink and Blink chased lions down the stairs,
Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage,
But Custard cried for a nice safe cage.

Barrel: drum

Chased: hunt, follow

Rage: anger

So, now the poet explains the inner strength or the bravery of various characters of the poem. He says that Belinda was as brave as a group of bears and ink and blink were so brave that they could hunt lions. So here he has shown the bravery of the kitten and the little mouse that could hunt even a lion. The dog was very brave just like an angry tiger. But to contrast of all of them was Custard. Custard, the dragon was not brave he was so afraid of everything that he always demanded a safe cage.

Literary Devices:

Rhyme scheme: aabb (bears-stairs, rage-cage)

Alliteration: Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears "b" sound is repeated



Simile: Belinda's bravery is compared to that of a barrel full of bears (as a barrel full of bears), Mustard's bravery is compared to that of an angry tiger (Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage)

Assonance: use of vowel sound 'a' (Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears)

Stanza 5

Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful,
Ink, Blink and Mustard, they rudely called him Percival,
They all sat laughing in the little red wagon
At the realio, trulio, cowardly dragon.

Tickled: stroke, here it means to tease
Unmerciful: cruel
Percival: A knight in King Arthur's court

Belinda used to stroke the dragon in a very cruel way. Ink, blink and mustard made fun of him by comparing him to a knight named Percival who was thought to be brave but ran away due to lack of courage. They used to tease the dragon while sitting in their little red wagon.

Literary Devices:

Rhyme scheme: aabb (unmerciful-Percival, wagon-dragon)

Refrain: Repetition of a sentence again and again (And a realio, trulio,)

Repetition: use of the word 'tickled him'

Allusion: reference to any person or place (Percival)

Personification: Ink, Blink and Mustard, they rudely called him Percival



Stanza 6

Belinda giggled till she shook the house,
And Blink said Weeck! which is giggling for a mouse,
Ink and Mustard rudely asked his age,
When Custard cried for a nice safe cage.

Giggled: to laugh

Weeck: Here it is the sound made by the mouse

The poet says that Belinda used to laugh so loudly that her voice echoed in the house. Blink, the mouse used to laugh and make a sound of weeck. On the other hand, ink and mustard would tease him by asking the dragon his age whenever he used to demand for a nice safe cage.

Literary Devices:

Rhyme scheme: aabb (house-mouse, rage-cage)

Onomatopoeia: usage of sound words to create a dramatic effect (giggled, weeck)

Repetition: Custard cried for a nice safe cage

Stanza 7

Suddenly, suddenly they heard a nasty sound,
And Mustard growled, and they all looked around.
Meowch! cried Ink, and ooh! cried Belinda,
For there was a pirate, climbing in the winda

Nasty: bad or unpleasant

Growled: bark

Pirate: A person who robs ship in the sea

Winda: it is used for window

So, while all of them were making fun of the dragon, they heard a sound of someone entering the house. When they looked towards the window they saw a pirate climbing up the wall. The dog barked at him and the kitten meowed to him. Belinda cried 'ooh' because all of them were scared of the pirate (who robs ships).

Literary Devices:

Rhyme scheme: aabb (sound-around, Belinda-winda)

Consonance: use of consonant sound 's' (Suddenly, suddenly they heard a nasty sound)

Onomatopoeia: usage of sound words to create a dramatic effect (Mustard growled, Meowch, cried ink)

Poetic license: window is written as 'winda' to create rhyme.



Stanza 8

Pistol in his left hand, pistol in his right,
And he held in his teeth a cutlass bright,
His beard was black, one leg was wood;
It was clear that the pirate meant no good

Pistol: a handgun

Cutlass: a short sword with a curved blade.

The poet describes the appearance of the pirate. He says that the pirate was holding handguns in both his hands and had a little sword too. He was holding his sword with his teeth. He had a black beard and his one leg was made of wood. This means that though the pirate was a disabled person but still he was frightening all the other characters. Moreover, he intended to harm them.

Literary Devices:

Rhyme scheme: aabb (right- bright, wood- good)

Alliteration: beard was black “b”, he held his “h”

Imagery: An image is created about the appearance of the pirate.

Stanza 9

Belinda paled, and she cried Help! Help!
But Mustard fled with a terrified yelp,
Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household,
And little mouse Blink strategically mouseholed

Paled: turn yellow due to fear

Yelp: a short sharp cry

Trickled: here, run

Strategically: planned

Mouseholed: here it is the hole where the mouse lives.

When all of them saw the pirate they got frightened. Belinda was so frightened that she turned yellow due to fear and started crying for help. Mustard the dog started crying for help too. The kitten ink ran down towards the bottom of the house as if he had already planned for it. The mouse ink ran into his little mouse hole in order to save himself.

Literary Devices:

Rhyme scheme: aabb (help-yelp, household – mousehold)

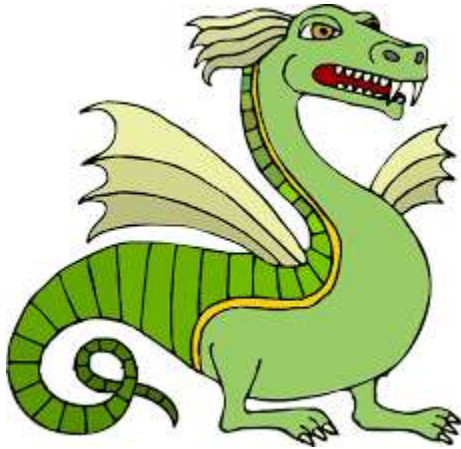
transferred epithet: terrified yelp

Repetition: help help

Poetic license: use of the word mousehold to rhyme with household

Stanza 10

But up jumped Custard, snorting like an engine,



Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon,
With a clatter and a clank and a jangling squirm,
He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm.

Snorting: make a sudden explosive sound through one's nose

Clashed: fought

Dungeon: underground prison

Clatter Clank: sound of hard object falling on each other

Jangling squirm: sound of hard object falling on each other

Robin: A bird

When all the other characters that were earlier defined as very brave got frightened, the dragon did the most unexpected thing. He jumped onto the pirate and made such a strong sound with his nose as if the engine was producing a sound. Not only this, he hit his tail on the ground with great force that it produced a heavy sound of metal being rubbed against each other in the underground prisons. He attacked the pirate just like robin bird that attacks the worms.

Literary Devices:

Rhyme scheme: aabb (engine-dungeon, squirm-worm)

Simile: sound of dragon is compared with sound of engine (snorting like an engine), Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon, dragon's attack on pirate is compared to robin bird (like a robin at a worm)

Onomatopoeia: usage of sound words to create a dramatic effect (clatter, clank, jangling)

Imagery: The attack by the dragon is expressed in a way to make an image in our minds.

Stanza 11

The pirate gaped at Belinda's dragon,
And gulped some grog from his pocket flagon,
He fired two bullets, but they didn't hit,
And Custard gobbled him, every bit.

Gaped: stared with mouth wide open

Gulped: swallow

Grog: a drink

Flagon: a container made of silver in which drink is stored

Gobbled: swallowed hurriedly

The pirate got so shocked by the dragon's reaction that he opened his mouth wide with shock. To gather some strength, he drank some alcohol from a container in his pocket. After gathering some courage, he fired two bullets on the dragon but missed it. Custard the dragon ate every bit of this fierce looking pirate.

Literary Devices:

Rhyme scheme: aabb (dragon-flagon, hit-bit)

alliteration: gulped some grog "g"

Imagery: They have shown the reaction and actions made by the pirate on seeing the dragon.

Stanza 12

Belinda embraced him, Mustard licked him,
No one mourned for his pirate victim.
Ink and Blink in glee did gyrate
Around the dragon that ate the pirate.

Embraced: to hug
Mourned: feel sorrow for the death of someone
Victim: sufferer
Glee: delight
Gyrate: danced

When the pirate was dead, Belinda hugged the dragon and mustard licked him. No one was sad for the death of the pirate, they all were happy. Both ink and blink were running around the dragon in happiness. So, here the poet says that all the characters were happy and they were showing their gratitude towards the dragon as he had saved them.

Literary Devices:

Rhyme scheme: aabb (him-victim, gyrate-pirate)

alliteration: glee did gyrate "g"

Assonance: use of vowel sound 'o' (no one mourned for), use of vowel sound 'l' (ink and blink in glee did), use of vowel sound 'a' (that ate the pirate)

Stanza 13

But presently up spoke little dog Mustard,
I'd have been twice as brave if I hadn't been flustered.
And up spoke Ink and up spoke Blink,
We'd have been three times as brave, we think,
And Custard said, I quite agree
That everybody is braver than me.

Flustered: upset or confused

After they thanked and showed their love towards the dragon, they changed their mind. They were reminded of how they used to make fun of this coward dragon and now they all were praising him. So at once the dog said that it was just because of some confusion that he wasn't able to do anything otherwise he would have been twice as brave as custard. Both ink and blink also said that they would have been three times braver than custard. To this, the dragon said that he fully agreed to this that all of them were more powerful and braver than him.

Literary Devices:

Rhyme scheme: aabb (mustard-flustered, blink-ink, agree-me)

Stanza 14

Belinda still lives in her little white house,
With her little black kitten and her little grey mouse,
And her little yellow dog and her little red wagon,
And her realio, trulio little pet dragon.
Belinda is as brave as a barrel full of bears,
And Ink and Blink chase lions down the stairs,
Mustard is as brave as a tiger in a rage,
But Custard keeps crying for a nice safe cage

At last, the poet used the same lines again to show that after this terrific episode in which the dragon was the hero where all the other characters still undermined him by saying that they were more powerful than him and could have handled the situation in a much better way, the poet says that life started again in the same manner. Belinda still lives in that little white house with ink, blink, mustard and custard and all of them are very brave whereas the dragon is still a coward who always wants to stay safe in his cage.

Literary Devices

Refrain: Repetition of a sentence again and again (And a realio, trulio)

Repetition: stanza has been repeated

Question and Answers

Q1- Who are the characters in this poem? List them with their pet names.

A1 Following are the characters of the poem:

- i. A little girl named Belinda.
- ii. A little black kitten whose name is ink.
- iii. A little gray mouse named blink.
- iv. A dog named mustard because he is yellow in colour.
- v. A coward dragon whose name is Custard.

Q2- Why did Custard cry for a nice safe cage? Why is the dragon called “cowardly dragon”?

A2- Custard cries for a safe cage because he is A coward. He is called cowardly dragon because other characters are defined to be very brave in the following manner:

- i. Belinda is described to be as brave as a barrel full of bears
- ii. Ink and blink can chase lions down the stairs
- iii. Mustard was as brave as a tiger in rage.

Q3- “Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful...” Why?

A3- Belinda tickled him unmerciful because custard the dragon was a coward. He always demanded a safe cage. That is why all of them made fun of him.

Q4- The poet has employed many poetic devices in the poem. For example: “Clashed his tail like iron in a dungeon” — the poetic device here is a simile. Can you, with your partner, list some more such poetic devices used in the poem?

A4- The poet has used many poetic devices to enhance the beauty of the poem. Like, to create rhyme with ‘Belinda’, he used the word ‘winda’ instead of ‘window’. Other such rhyming words are ‘household’ used with ‘mouseholed’ and ‘wagon’ with ‘dragon’. Not only this, he also uses poetic device of repetition for example the word ‘little’ is used many times to describe her house and her pets. There is also the use of poetic device of refrain because we can see the repetition of line “And her realio, trulio little pet dragon” in many stanzas.

Q5- Read stanza three again to know how the poet describes the appearance of the dragon?

A5- The looks of the dragon are explained in a way that it has big sharp teeth and spikes on top. This means its skin is pointed on the top. On the lower part it has scales which are bony plates meant to protect the skin. His mouth has been compared to a fireplace because it is assumed that the dragons can release fire from the mouth. Even his nose is compared to a chimney which is used to pass out the smoke. His feet are like a sharp knife i.e. a dagger.

Q6- Can you find out the rhyme scheme of two or three stanzas of the poem?

A6- Rhyme scheme of the second and third stanza is aabb.

Q7-- Writers use words to give us a picture or image without actually saying what they mean. Can you trace some images used in the poem?

A7- Following are the words used to give us picture or image:

- i. Mouth like a fireplace
- ii. Chimney for nose
- iii. Barrel full of bears
- iv. Brave as a tiger in the rage
- v. He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm

Q8- Do you find The Tale of Custard the Dragon to be a serious or a light-hearted poem? Give reasons to support your answer.

A8- The Tale of Custard the Dragon is a light hearted poem. All the characters have names which are rhyming with each other. They all are defined to be very brave except the dragon. But in reality the dragon proves to be the real hero. When they are attacked by the pirate, the dragon gulps him. Though all the other characters were not brave enough to handle the pirate but still they define themselves as more powerful than the dragon after the incident is handled by the dragon alone. Though, the dragon was defined as a coward by the poet right from the beginning of the poem.