

How to Tell Wild Animals

If ever you should go by chance
To jungles in the east;
And if there should to you advance
A large and tawny beast,
If he roars at you as you're dyin'
You'll know it is the Asian Lion...

This is an extreme situation to identify a lion. The poet says that if the roar of the animal is so fearsome that you feel like you are dying then you can be sure that you are near a lion.

But nobody would like to recognize a lion in this way.
Or if some time when roaming round,
A noble wild beast greets you,
With black stripes on a yellow ground,
Just notice if he eats you.
This simple rule may help you learn
The Bengal Tiger to discern.

What to do if you see a wild animal with black stripes on yellow body. If he starts eating you then you can be sure that it is a tiger. But it is better not to wait to be a tiger's lunch to identify it.

If strolling forth, a beast you view,
Whose hide with spots is peppered,
As soon as he has leapt on you,
You'll know it is the Leopard.
'Twill do no good to roar with pain,
He'll only leap and leap again.

If you happen to see an animal with spots which gives it a salt and pepper appearance, wait until he leaps on you. Because no matter how hard you cry, it will continue pouncing on you. So , be careful and don't allow it to leap on you.

If when you're walking round your yard
You meet a creature there,
Who hugs you very, very hard,
Be sure it is a Bear.
If you have any doubts, I guess
He'll give you just one more caress.
Bears are thought to be good wrestlers and can give a really tight hug.
Although a friendly hug is referred to as bear hug. But if a real bear will
hug you, then it may not feel friendly at all.

Though to distinguish beasts of prey
A novice might nonplus,
The Crocodile you always may
Tell from the Hyena thus:
Hyenas come with merry smiles;
But if they weep they're Crocodiles.
Some animals are famous for their weird behaviour. For example, a
laughing hyena's voice resembles human's laughing sound. A crocodile
is said shed tears while eating its pray. So don't wait for a hyena to
laugh or for a crocodile to weep.

The true Chameleon is small,
A lizard sort of thing;
He hasn't any ears at all,
And not a single wing.
If there is nothing on the tree,
'Tis the chameleon you see.
A chameleon or garden lizard is an expert at camouflage. If you are
unable to see a thing on tree then chances are chameleon is sitting there.
As it changes colour as per its surrounding it is difficult to see. This
capacity of camouflage helps the lizard in saving it from hunters.
CAROLYN WELLS

Q1-Does 'dyin' really rhyme with 'lion'? Can you say it in such a way that it does?

A1-The actual word is dying which does not rhyme with lion. In order to create rhyme, it is written as 'dyin' in the poem.

Q2- How does the poet suggest that you identify the lion and the tiger? When can you do so, according to him?

A2-The poet differentiates between the two in the following manner-

He says that if the beast is of yellow- brown colour that is tawny colour and it roars out so fiercely that you may die out of fear, then this is an Asian lion.

Whereas, if the animal has black stripes on yellow background of the skin and he attacks to kill you, then it is a Bengal tiger.

Q3- Do you think the words 'lept' and 'lep' in the third stanza are spelt correctly? Why does the poet spell them like this?

A3-The words 'lept' and 'lep' have not been spelled correctly. It is a poetic device known as poetic license which is used by the poet to lay emphasis on the actions of the leopard.

Q4- Look at the line "A novice might nonplus". How would you write this 'correctly'? Why is the poet's 'incorrect' line better in the poem?

A4-The correct order of the sentence is 'a novice might be nonplussed'. The poet wrote it in order to bring rhyme to her poem. nonplus rhymes with thus.

Q5- Much of the humour in the poem arises from the way language is used, although the ideas are funny as well. If there are particular lines in the poem that you especially like, share these with the class, speaking briefly about what it is about the ideas or the language that you like or find funny?

A5- Yes, it is true that the poet has used the language in a way that it arises humour. The poet has used many lines that are funny. One such is 'If he roars at you as you're dyin'. You'll know it is the Asian Lion...' or the other one is 'A noble wild beast greets you'. So his idea of explaining the characteristics of the wild animals is quite funny.

Extract Based Questions [3 Marks each]

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Question 1.

If ever you should go by chance To jungles in the east;
And if there should to you advance A large and tawny beast,
If he roars at you as you're dyin'
You'll know it is the Asian Lion

- (a) State features of an Asian Lion.
- (b) What happens when the lion roars?
- (c) What do you mean by 'tawny' ?
- (d) What is the physical appearance of the lion in the stanza?

Answer:

- (a) An Asian Lion is large and brownish-yellow in colour.
- (b) When the lion roars, it is very scary and it feels like we are going to die.
- (c) 'Tawny' means brownish-yellow in colour.
- (d) The lion in the stanza is large and tawny.

Question 2.

Or if some time when roaming round, A noble wild beast greets you,
With black stripes on a yellow ground, Just notice if he eats you.
This simple rule may help you learn The Bengal Tiger to discern.

- (a) How can you recognise a Tiger?
- (b) Why does the poet call him a noble animal? [CBSE 2015]
- (c) How is Bengal Tiger different from the other animals?
- (d) What does the word 'ground' mean here?

Answer:

- (a) A tiger can be recognised with the black stripes on his yellow hide.
- (b) The poet calls him a noble animal as he is very impressive in size and does not roar loudly.
- (c) Bengal Tiger is different from the other animals as he is quiet and roams silently.
- (d) It means the hide or the background that is the skin of the Tiger.

Question 3.

If strolling forth, a beast you view,
Whose hide with spots is peppered,
As soon as he has leapt on you,
You'll know it is the Leopard.
Twill do no good to roar with pain,
He'll only leap and leap again.

- (a) While walking, how does a leopard's hide appear to be?

- (b) When does one come to know that it is a leopard?
- (c) Give a synonym of 'strolling'.
- (d) Why it won't do any good to roar with pain?

Answer:

- (a) A leopard's hide appears to be peppered while walking.
- (b) According to the poet, one comes to know that it is a leopard when it leaps or jumps on him.
- (c) Walking
- (d) A leopard's grip is the toughest one, so one can't do anything under the grip of that beast.

Question 4.

If when you're walking round your yard
 You meet a creature there,
 Who hugs you very, very hard,
 Be sure it is a Bear,
 If you have any doubts, I guess He'll give you just one more caress.

- (a) Who is going to hug and why?
- (b) This hug is also called?
- (c) What is the antonym of 'Caress'?
- (d) Where can a bear be found?

Answer:

- (a) The bear is going to hug you hard to embrace you.
- (b) A Bearhug
- (c) The antonym of 'caress' is 'boo'.
- (d) A bear can be found in the yard where it may get nectar from the beehives.

Question 5.

Though to distinguish beasts of prey A novice might nonplus,
 The crocodile you always may
 Tell from the Hyena thus:
 Hyenas come with merry smiles;
 But if they weep they're Crocodiles.

- (a) Between which animals would it be difficult to differentiate? [CBSE2011]
- (b) How does a Hyena differ from a Crocodile?
- (c) Quote a saying famous for Crocodile.
- (d) Where does a novice may get confused?

Answer:

- (a) It would be difficult to differentiate between a Crocodile and a Hyena.
- (b) A Hyena laughs as it swallows its victim, while a Crocodile weeps as it swallows its prey.
- (c) "Crocodile tears" is a famous saying for Crocodile.
- (d) A novice may get confused in differentiating between a hyena and a crocodile.

Question 6.

The true Chameleon is small,

A lizard sort of things;

He hasn't any ears at all,

And not a single wing.

If there is nothing on the tree,

'Tis the Chameleon you see.

(a) What does a Chameleon look like?

(b) Describe any two characteristics of a Chameleon.

(c) Give an antonym of 'small'.

(d) Where can a chameleon be found?

Answer:

(a) A Chameleon looks like a lizard.

(b) A Chameleon does not have ears and wings.

(c) Big

(d) A chameleon can be found on the tree.

Short Answer Type Questions [2 Marks each]

Question 1. How can you identify the Asian lion and the Bengal Tiger?

Answer: The Asian Lion has a large body and a brownish-yellow coat. It roars loudly when it attacks its prey. On the other hand, the Bengal Tiger has black stripes on its yellow coat. It silently attacks its prey.

Question 2. Write the sum and substance of the poem, "How to Tell Wild Animals".

Answer: The poet, Carolyn Wells, in the poem suggests some of the dangerous ways to identify the wild animals. The poem is full of humorous examples when the poet tries to distinguish one animal from the other. Moreover, the poem educates us by describing the various features of wild animals.

Question 3. How can you distinguish between a tiger and a leopard?

Answer: A tiger has black stripes on its yellow coat. A leopard on the other hand, does not have any stripes. It has spots peppered on its body. Moreover, a tiger kills only when it is hungry, while a leopard can kill for the pleasure of killing by pouncing continuously on its prey.

Question 4. How can you distinguish between a hyena and a crocodile?

Answer: A hyena laughs as it swallows its victim, whereas a crocodile weeps as it swallows its victim.

Question 5. What are the distinctive features of the Asian lion as given in the poem?

Answer: The Asian Lion is large in stature. It is brownish-yellow in colour. It

roars very loudly. The sound of its roar is so terrible to hear that it can make one almost die due to fear. The Asian Lion is found in the forests of East Asian countries.

Question 6. What does the Bengal Tiger look like? What is so distinct about him?

Answer: The Bengal Tiger roams freely in the forest. It is noble and majestic in stature. It wears black stripes on a yellow hide. When it notices someone it tries to eat him. The Bengal tiger attacks its prey very silently and grasps it with his terrifying teeth.

Question 7. How does a leopard behave when he sees someone?

Answer: As leopard has black spots all over its body. As soon as it sees someone, it leaps over him at once. It keeps on pouncing continuously on its victim, attacks him and starts eating him.

Question 8. How does the poet describe the bear?

Answer: The poet describes the bear in a humourous way. He says that as soon as a bear sees a human being, it hugs him tightly. It clasps its prey tightly with both its hands and squeezes him to death. If he is still alive, he gives him another tight hug to kill him.

Question 9. What is so weird about the Hyena and the crocodile?

Answer: Some animals such as the hyena and the crocodile are famous for their weird behaviour. For example, a laughing hyena's voice resembles human's laughing sound. Moreover, a hyena laughs while swallowing its prey, while a crocodile shed tears.

Question 10. Describe a few characteristics of a chameleon.

Answer: A chameleon is a garden lizard and is an expert at camouflage. It changes its colour as per its surroundings. This ability of camouflage helps it in saving it from the hunters. A chameleon does not have – any ears or wings.

Long Answer (Value Based) Type Question [8 Marks each]

Question 1. 'Humour is the best medicine for every ailment in life'. Comment.

Answer: Humour is infectious. When humour is shared, it binds people together and increases happiness. Humour strengthens our immune system, boosts our energy, diminishes pain and protects us from the damaging effects of stress. It is the priceless medicine for every ailment in life. The poet, in the poem 'How to tell Wild Animals' creates humour by describing various beasts of prey. The way the poet explains the things is very funny yet interesting. The poet has depicted the wildlife very vividly and in a lively manner. While reading the poem, the readers enjoy the poet's work and it leaves them refreshed and happy.

MCQs

Q1- Which animal would you find in the jungles of the east?

- A) Asian Lion
- B) Bengal Tiger
- C) Leopard
- D) Bear

Q2- Which animal's roar is enough to kill you?

- A) Asian Lion
- B) Bengal Tiger
- C) Leopard
- D) Bear

Q3- Which animal is she referring to when she says, "A noble wild beast greets you"?

- A) Asian Lion
- B) Bengal Tiger
- C) Leopard
- D) Bear

Q4- Which animal do you find while walking in a yard?

- A) Asian Lion
- B) Bengal Tiger
- C) Leopard
- D) Bear

Q5- How does a bear kill you?

- A) By hugging you hard
- B) with its roar
- C) by taking a leap on you
- D) None of the Above

Q6- Which animals are the beasts of prey?

- A) Hyena
- B) Crocodile

- C) Both of them
D) None of them

Q7- Who cries while catching their prey?

- A) Hyena
B) Crocodile
C) Both of them
D) None of them

Q8- Who smiles while catching their prey?

- A) Hyena
B) Crocodile
C) Both of them
D) None of them

Q9- What is the difference between a chameleon and a lizard?

- A) Chameleon doesn't have ears and wings
B) Lizards don't have ears and wings
C) Lizards don't have wings
D) Chameleons doesn't have wings

Q10- Name the literary device used in the line "He hasn't any ears at all".

- A) Assonance
B) Inversion
C) Enjambment
D) Alliteration

ANSWER KEY

1	A
2	A
3	B
4	D
5	A

6	C
7	B
8	A
9	A
10	D

How to Tell Wild Animals Summary of the poem

The poet is describing the various wild animals. These animals are very dangerous and she has introduced them one by one in a very funny way. First of all she tells us about an Asian lion. She says that if you are visiting the jungles of the east and there you see an animal which has tawny skin and he roars so loudly that you will die out of fear. This means that you have seen an Asian lion. Next in the line is the Bengal tiger that she has explained to be a royal animal that at once attacks and kills a man. She says by adding humour that if this beautiful black striped animal kills you and eats you, then you have surely met a Bengal tiger. After this, she says that if the reader met an animal that has black spotted skin and it at once jumps on him, then it means that the reader has met a leopard. Moreover, she says that if one will cry out in pain, it maybe of no use as the leopard will not stop attacking him. Then she moves on to the bear that she says will hug very tightly. This is the way to recognize a bear as it kills a person by hugging him very tightly. So, she says that the bear will continue to hug us tightly and that is the only way to recognize him. After this, she asks a question to the readers that do they know how to recognize beasts that hunt their prey. Here she explains about hyenas which she thinks have a smiling face and the crocodiles that have tears in their eyes. This can be seen when they are killing their prey. The last one in the list is the Chameleon. She says that it is a lizard - like creature which doesn't have ears and wings just like a lizard. Only this can help you differentiate between a lizard and chameleon. She further says that the chameleon has a quality of changing its color according to the colour of the surface. So, to explain this she says that if the reader looks at the tree and if he can only see the tree, this means that there is a chameleon sitting on it which has already turned its color to brown just like the branch of the tree.



How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation

If ever you should go by chance
To jungles in the east;
And if there should to you advance
A large and tawny beast,
If he roars at you as you're dyin'
You'll know it is the Asian Lion...

Tawny: yellowish brown color

The poet is telling the readers that how they can recognize various animals in the jungles of the east. So, in first stanza she says that if the reader comes across an animal whose skin is yellowish brown in colour and if it roars at him so strongly that he can die out of fear, it means that he has encountered an Asian Lion. She has humorously explained the Asian Lion which could kill a person with its roar.

Literary Devices

Rhyme: Rhyme scheme ababcc is followed (chance-advance, east-beast, dyin-lion)

Enjambment: Continuation of a sentence to the next line (and if there.....tawny beast)

Inversion: Change in the format of a sentence (if there should to you advance)

Assonance: use of vowel sound 'o' (you should go, should to you, roars,)

Allusion: Reference to a famous thing, place, species of animal, etc (Asian Lion)



Or if some time when roaming round,
A noble wild beast greets you,
With black stripes on a yellow ground,
Just notice if he eats you.
This simple rule may help you learn
The Bengal Tiger to discern.

Noble: high born, aristocratic

Discern: recognize

She explains an animal that roams in the jungle and belongs to a royal clan. The colour of its skin is yellowish with black stripes. She says that if you notice that he kills you and eats you up, then this means that you have surely seen a Bengal Tiger. This time also she has used dark humour to explain how a tiger looks like because once a person has been eaten up by a wild animal, there is no use in determining which wild animal it is.

Literary Devices

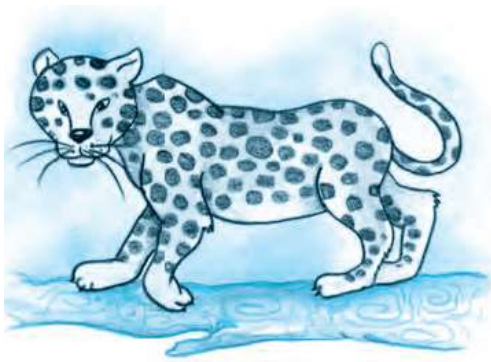
Rhyme: Rhyme scheme ababcc is followed (round-ground, you-you learn-discern)

Alliteration: repetition of consonant sound 'r' at start of two or more closely connected words (roaming round)

Inversion: Change in the format of a sentence (The Bengal Tiger to discern)

Allusion: Reference to a famous thing, place, species of animal, etc (Bengal Tiger)

Assonance: Use of vowel sound 'o' (or if some time when roaming round)



If strolling forth, a beast you view,
Whose hide with spots is peppered,
As soon as he has lept on you,
You'll know it is the Leopard.
'Twill do no good to roar with pain,
He'll only lep and lep again.

Strolling: walking casually

Forth: forward

Hide: skin of animal

Peppered: Here it means the spots

Lept (Leapt): jump towards someone

The poet says that if you are casually walking in a jungle, you will meet an animal who has a skin with spots on it. This animal is so fast that it will leap on you at once which means that it will jump on you. This jumping is an indication that it is none other than the Leopard. Moreover, she adds that if you will cry out in pain, it is not going to be of any use as it will keep on jumping on you. So, in this stanza the poet has explained the characteristic of a leopard.

Literary Devices

Rhyme: Rhyme scheme ababcc is followed (view- you, peppered- Leopard, pain- again)

Alliteration: use of consonant sound 'h' in the beginning of two words (he has)

Poetic license: A liberty to the poet to change the spellings in order to create rhyme or rhythm in a poem (use of lept instead of leapt)

Repetition: use of 'lep' word in the last line.

Assonance: use of vowel sound 'o' (strolling-forth-you, whose-spot, do no good to roar)

Consonance: use of 'l' sound (he'll only lep lep)



If when you're walking round your yard
You meet a creature there,
Who hugs you very, very hard,
Be sure it is a Bear.
If you have any doubts, I guess
He'll give you just one more caress.

Yard: backyard or the lawn area of a house

Caress: A gentle touch

If you are walking in the lawn area of your house and you meet a creature which hugs you tightly, it is a bear. She further adds that if you are still in doubt regarding the animal, the easiest way is that he will keep hugging and touching you very gently. This act of his will make you sure about its identity. You will come to know that it is a bear.

Literary Devices

Rhyme: Rhyme scheme ababcc is followed (yard-hard, there- bear, guess-caress)

Enjambment: Continuation of a sentence to the next line (if you were walking....creature there)

Alliteration: use of 'w' sound (when-walking), use of 'h' sound (who- hugs), use of 'b' sound (be-bear)

Assonance: use of vowel 'e' (meet a creature there)



Though to distinguish beasts of prey
A novice might nonplus,
The Crocodile you always may
Tell from the Hyena thus:
Hyenas come with merry smiles;



But if they weep they're Crocodiles

Distinguish: Differentiate

Beast of Prey: Any animals that hunts other animals for food

Novice: Someone new to a job

Nonplus: be confused

The poet says that for someone who is new to the job of recognizing animals, it will be like a puzzle to recognize animals that hunt other animals for their food. So here the poet tries to help out the readers by telling the difference between two animals. He says that Hyenas will be smiling whereas if it is a crocodile, it is always in tears. Both of these animals are dangerous.

Literary Devices

Rhyme: Rhyme scheme ababcc is followed (prey-may, nonplus-thus, smiles-crocodiles)

Alliteration: use of consonant sound 'n' (novice-nonplus), use of 'th' sound (the-thus)

Enjambment: continuation of sentence to the next line (though to distinguish....might nonplus, The crocodile.....hyena thus)



The true Chameleon is small,
A lizard sort of thing;
He hasn't any ears at all,
And not a single wing.
If there is nothing on the tree,
'Tis the chameleon you see.

The poet says that the next is Chameleon which is a small creature. It looks like a lizard but the difference between the two is that chameleon does not have ears and wings. Moreover she says that chameleon has the ability to change its color according to the surface on which it is sitting. Therefore, if you see a tree and find nothing else on it, then it must be a chameleon sitting on it. It has changed its colour into the color of tree.

Literary Devices

Rhyme: Rhyme scheme ababcc is followed (small-all, thing-wing, tree-see)

Alliteration: use of 'h' sound (he hasn't)

Consonance: use of 'g' sound (single wing)