

A Long Walk to Freedom

Question 1: Where did the ceremonies take place? Can you name any public buildings in India that are made of sandstone?

Answer: The ceremonies took place in the campus of the Union Building of Pretoria. In India; Rashtrapati Bhavan, and Red Fort are some of the buildings made from sandstone.

Question 2: Can you say how 10 May is an ‘autumn day’ in South Africa?

Answer: The paragraph mentions that it was a lovely autumn day. Moreover, as South Africa is in the southern hemisphere so it is autumn season there.

Question 3: At the beginning of his speech, Mandela mentions “an extraordinary human disaster”. What does he mean by this? What is the “glorious ... human achievement” he speaks of at the end?

Answer: The extraordinary human disaster was the practice of apartheid in South Africa. During apartheid regime there was racial segregation based on skin colour of people. Black people did not have proper constitutional rights.

The end of apartheid regime and the beginning of a more tolerant society was the glorious human achievement.

Question 4: What does Mandela thank the international leaders for?

Answer: During apartheid era many country had severed diplomatic ties with South Africa. On that day most of the countries’ dignitaries were present to attend the swearing in ceremony. This was a gesture of international recognition to a newly born free nation. Nelson Mandela was thanking them for this recognition.

Question 5: What ideals does he set out for the future of South Africa?

Answer: Mandela set out the ideals of poverty alleviation, removal of suffering of people. He also set the ideal for a society where there would be no discrimination based on gender or racial origins.

Question 6: What do the military generals do? How has their attitude changed, and why?

Answer: Military generals salute Nelson Mandela, which is having its own importance as during apartheid era they would have arrested

Mandela. The change in their attitude was because of struggle and sacrifices put in by many heroes of South Africa. This struggle not only ensured the freedom of South Africa but also brought a change of mindsets for many. As Nelson Mandela believed that like hate love can also be taught and human being is naturally oriented towards love rather than hate.

Question 7: Why were two national anthems sung?

Answer: The rendition of national anthem from old republic as well as new republic was sign of the pledge of those who were laying the foundation of a new nation. As it was pledge to build a society devoid of any type of discrimination so the old republic song was also sung to show solidarity with white people and to show that it will be a truly multicultural society.

Question 8: How does Mandela describe the systems of government in his country (i) in the first decade, and (ii) in the final decade, of the twentieth century?

Answer: In the first decade after the Anglo-Boer war it was the birth of an oppressive regime which created a system to deprive the black people of even basic human rights. In the final decade, of the twentieth century the system developed a strong pattern of even ignoring the sacrifices made by so many great leaders of South Africa. It was like as if black never existed for the apartheid regime.

Question 9: What does courage mean to Mandela?

Answer: For Mandela courage does not mean the absence of fear but a victory over fear. According to him brave men need not be fearless but should be able to conquer fear.

Question 10: Which does he think is natural, to love or to hate?

Answer: Mandela thinks for human beings it is natural to love rather than to hate.

Question 11: Why did such a large number of international leaders attend the inauguration? What did it signify the triumph of?

Answer: The presence of large number of international leaders was a gesture of solidarity from international community to the idea of the end of apartheid. It signified the triumph of good over evil, the triumph of the idea of a tolerant society without any discrimination.

Question 12: What does Mandela mean when he says he is “simply the sum of all those African patriots” who had gone before him?

Answer: As Mandela was carrying forward the baton of the freedom struggle, he was also carrying the legacy of leaders of yesteryears. In a baton race the new runner simply carries forward the work done by his predecessors. This is what Nelson Mandela was doing. That is what he was trying to convey by making this statement.

Question 13: Would you agree that the “depths of oppression” create “heights of character”? How does Mandela illustrate this? Can you add your own examples to this argument?

Answer: I agree with the statement that depths of oppression create heights of character. Nelson Mandela illustrates this by giving examples of great heroes of South Africa who sacrificed their lives in the long freedom struggle.

India is full of such examples. During our freedom struggle there was a galaxy of leaders of great characters. Probably the oppression of British rule created so many men of such characters. If we compare this with the quality of political leaders India is having today, then Nelson Mandela seems to be absolutely right.

Question 14: How did Mandela’s understanding of freedom change with age and experience?

Answer: During young age freedom for Mandela meant a freedom on a personal level. The freedom to raise a family, and the freedom to earn a livelihood. After gaining experience the freedom meant a lot more to Nelson Mandela. It was a freedom for everybody. It was a freedom from fear and prejudice. Age and experience made his perspective more wide.

Question 15: How did Mandela’s ‘hunger for freedom’ change his life?

Answer: Slowly Nelson Mandela’s hunger for freedom turned from that on a personal level to a broader mass level. This changed the fearful man to a fearless rebel. He sacrificed the comforts of a settled family life to fight for a greater cause.

Question 16: What “twin obligations” does Mandela mention?

Answer: In South Africa or in any nation there are two obligations for a person. One is at the personal level towards his family. Another

obligation is towards the society. Apart from striving for personal goals a person should also work hard to contribute something to the society.

Question 17: What did being free mean to Mandela as a boy, and as a student? How does he contrast these “transitory freedoms” with “the basic and honourable freedoms”?

Answer: Like any other kid, for Mandela also the freedom meant a freedom to make merry and enjoy the blissful life. Once anybody becomes an adult, then antics of childhood look transitory because most of the childish activity is wasteful from an adult’s perspective.

Once you are adult then someday you have to earn a livelihood to bring the bacon home, then only you get an honourable existence in the family and in the society.

Question 18: Does Mandela think the oppressor is free? Why/Why not?

Answer: Mandela does not think that oppressor is free. Because, the oppressor is, the prisoner of hatred and prejudice.

A Tiger in the Zoo

He stalks in his vivid stripes
The few steps of his cage,
On pads of velvet quiet,
In his quiet rage.
He should be lurking in shadow,
Sliding through long grass
Near the water hole
Where plump deer pass.
He should be snarling around houses
At the jungle’s edge,
Baring his white fangs, his claws,
Terrorising the village!
But he’s locked in a concrete cell,
His strength behind bars,
Stalking the length of his cage,
Ignoring visitors.
He hears the last voice at night,

The patrolling cars,
And stares with his brilliant eyes
At the brilliant stars.
LESLIE NORRIS



A Tiger in the Zoo Poem and Explanation

He stalks in his vivid stripes
The few steps of his cage,
On pads of velvet quiet,
In his quiet rage.

Stalks: follows

Vivid: bright colored

Pads: paws of tiger

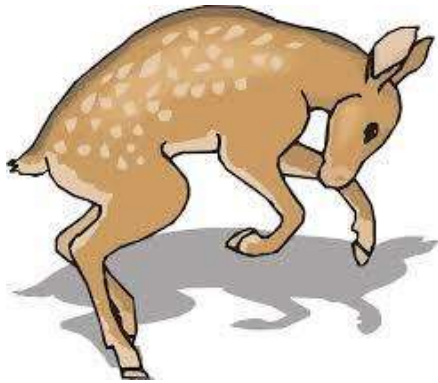
Rage: anger

Here the poet says that the tiger that is confined in the zoo moves around in the cage under his bright coloured skin. He further says that the tiger can take only a few steps because the cage is small and it is not easy to move in it. One cannot hear his footsteps because he has very soft feet, like velvet because of which there is no sound of the tiger's footsteps. The tiger tries to control his anger by quietly walking in the limited area of his cage. He is angry because he is not free.

Literary devices

- Rhyme scheme: abcb (cage-rage)
- Personification: The tiger is personified because the poet refers him as 'he'.
- Metaphor: Tiger's paws are compared with velvet (pads of velvet)

- Enjambment: Sentence is continuing to next line without any punctuation mark.
- Imagery: poet tries to create an image about the tiger (He stalks in his vivid stripes The few steps of his cage)
- Consonance: use of 's' sound (stalks, his, stripes)
- Assonance: use of vowel sound 'i' (in his vivid stripes)
- Oxymoron: use of adjectives opposite in meaning (quiet rage)



He should be lurking in shadow,
Sliding through long grass
Near the water hole
Where plump deer pass.

Lurking: To be hidden as to wait for your prey

The poet says that if this tiger was free, he would have hid himself behind the long grass near the water bodies so that he could easily catch a deer in order to have it as its food. Basically, the poet wants to say that the actual life of a tiger is to live in jungle where he could catch his prey and eat it but the tiger in the cage can not do so.

Literary devices

- Rhyme: rhyme scheme is abcb (grass-pass)
- Enjambment: Line continues to next line without punctuation marks. (Sliding through....deer pass)
- Alliteration: use of sound 'p' at the start of two words (plump pass)

- Imagery: The poet has tries to create an image of tiger's activities (lurking in shadow).



He should be snarling around houses
At the jungle's edge,
Baring his white fangs, his claws,
Terrorising the village!

Snarling: warning sounds made by animals
Baring: uncovered
Fangs: Sharp tooth of animals

The poet says that if the tiger would have been free, he would have snarled around the houses located at the outskirts of the forest. He would terrorise people with his sharp tooth and claws. This would create fear among the people living in the villages.

Literary devices

- Rhyme Scheme: abcb rhyme scheme is followed (edge, village)
- Enjambment: Line continues to next line without punctuation marks (He should be snarling around houses At the jungle's edge,)
- Onomatopoeia: using words which denote sound (snarling)
- Assonance: use of vowel sound 'o' and 'i' (should, around, houses), (Baring, his, white, his)
- Consonance: use of consonant sound 's' (his, fangs, his, claws)

But he's locked in a concrete cell,
His strength behind bars,
Stalking the length of his cage,
Ignoring visitors.

Concrete: building made of bricks, cement, sand and water

Now the poet comes to the reality of the tiger that is inside the cage. He says that the tiger is confined in a strong cell which is made of strong building material. He further says that as the tiger is behind bars, so his ferociousness is also behind the bars. He just stalks in the cage. He never tries to terrorise the visitors because his power is restricted by the cage. Therefore, he never tries to terrorise the visitors as he cannot attack them.

Literary devices

- Rhyme Scheme: abcb rhyme scheme is followed (bars-visitors)
- Personification: The tiger is personified because the poet refers him as 'he'.
- Assonance: use of vowel sound 'e' (he, locked, concrete, cell)
- Consonance: use of consonant sound 's' (his, strength, bars)
- Alliteration: use of sound 'b' at the start of two words (behind bars)



He hears the last voice at night,
The patrolling cars,
And stares with his brilliant eyes
At the brilliant stars.

Patrolling: to guard, to vigil

The poet says that in the night, the tiger hears the sounds of the patrolling cars. Patrolling cars are the vehicles of police which are used to guard at night. So, in the night the tiger hears the sounds of these cars. He then stares at the shining stars with his shining eyes. The poet wants to say that the tiger is sad and as he

is confined in the cage, so, he cannot do anything. Therefore, he stares at the stars in the night and tries to divert his thoughts towards them.

Literary devices:

- Rhyme Scheme: abcb rhyme scheme is followed (cars-stars)
- Enjambment: Line three continues to line four without any punctuation mark. (And stares with his brilliant eyes At the brilliant stars.)
- Alliteration: use of sound 'h' in the starting of two words (he hears)
- Assonance: use of 'i' sound (with, his, brilliant)
 - Q1- Read the poem again, and work in pairs or groups to do the following tasks.
 - (i) Find the words that describe the movements and actions of the tiger in the cage and in the wild. Arrange them in two columns.
 - (ii) Find the words that describe the two places, and arrange them in two columns.
 - Now try to share ideas about how the poet uses words and images to contrast the two situations.
 - A1- (1)

In the cage	In the wild
Stalks, quiet rage, ignoring visitors, hears the sound of patrolling cars, stares at stars	Lurking in shadow, sliding through the long grass, snarling around houses, baring his white fangs, terrorizing the village

- (2)

CAGE	WILD
Few steps of his cage	Shadow, long grass
Locked in concrete cell	Snarling around houses
His Strength behind bars	Baring his white fangs, his claws
Terrorising the village	Ignoring visitors

Q2- Notice the use of a word repeated in lines such as these:

(i) On pads of velvet quiet, In his quiet rage.

(ii) And stares with his brilliant eyes At the brilliant stars.

What do you think is the effect of this repetition?

A2- The poet has repeated the words to give a nice impact to his poem.

Like the use of quiet with velvet pads describes that the tiger has to walk in the limited area of his cage. He cannot run as he would have done had it been in the forest. Whereas 'quiet rage' shows the hidden anger inside him which has grown stronger because of his confinement in the cage. The next word he used is 'brilliant'. The word brilliant in the first line means the twinkling bright stars and the brilliant words used for the tiger's eyes shows the sadness of the tiger who would have led a free and fearless life if it were in the jungle.

Summary: This poem tries to depict the mental condition of a caged tiger. The tiger is taking to and fro steps in the cage as if trying to while away the time. The tiger should have been in its natural habitat sliding through the long grass. It would have been trying to catch a live deer. But in the cage the tiger is so fed up that it even ignores the visitor. The last line heightens the contrast between freedom and captivity. Brilliant stars outside the cage seem to be more brilliant than those brilliant eyes behind the cage. It seems that the tiger also understands the freedom that the star might be enjoying.