



3. Read the following two poems – one about a tiger and the other about a panther. Then discuss:

Are zoos necessary for the protection or conservation of some species of animals? Are they useful for educating the public? Are there alternatives to zoos?

#### The Tiger

The tiger behind the bars of his cage growls,  
The tiger behind the bars of his cage snarls,  
The tiger behind the bars of his cage roars.  
Then he thinks.  
It would be nice not to be behind bars all  
The time  
Because they spoil my view  
I wish I were wild, not on show.  
But if I were wild, hunters might shoot me,  
But if I were wild, food might poison me,  
But if I were wild, water might drown me.  
Then he stops thinking  
And...  
The tiger behind the bars of his cage growls,  
The tiger behind the bars of his cage snarls,  
The tiger behind the bars of his cage roars.

PETER NIBLETT

#### The Panther

His vision, from the constantly passing bars,  
has grown so weary that it cannot hold  
anything else. It seems to him there are  
a thousand bars; and behind the bars, no world.  
As he paces in cramped circles, over and over,  
the movement of his powerful soft strides  
is like a ritual dance around a centre  
in which a mighty will stands paralysed.  
Only at times, the curtain of the pupils  
lifts, quietly. An image enters in,  
rushes down through the tensed, arrested muscles,  
plunges into the heart and is gone.

RAINER MARIA RILKE

Answer:

The Zoo is very necessary place for some animals as they could be hunted down, poisoned by some wild food, or could drown in water in the forest. They also aware public about the nature of animals and make human friendly with animals. However, a zoo is not the correct substitute for a forest. In a zoo, an animal would feel caged, bound, and not free to roam about in the wild. It is for this reason that wildlife sanctuaries and national parks have been instituted in order to conserve several endangered species. These places provide protection as well as natural surroundings to these species. They can roam about freely in their habitats and are safe too. The public can visit these parks and get educated about the animals

and their lifestyles. The parks and sanctuaries are run using a strict set of rules, the most prominent being the ban on hunting. Since the animals are in the open, visitors would not be able feed them and would not misbehave or try to play with them as they are under strict guidance. Such incidents have been recorded in zoos where people irritate and tease the animals. Hence, a wild life sanctuary is a good alternative for animals to be safe as well as in their natural surroundings.

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