

CLASS – 10,
SUB- ENGLISH LIT. & LANG.
A Tiger in the Zoo by Leslie Norris.

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

Question 1.

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

- (a) Why the tiger could walk only a few steps?
- (b) How does the tiger move in the cage?
- (c) What are the two qualities of the animal under reference?
- (d) Why is he in quiet rage?

Answer:

- (a) The tiger could walk only a few steps because he was locked in a very small cage.
- (b) The tiger moves very slowly and quietly in a threatening way.
- (c) The tiger has vivid stripes on his body and soft velvet pads.
- (d) He is in quiet rage as he is locked and his freedom has been curtailed. Thus, he is unable to show his anger and ferocity.

Question 2.

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

- (a) Who is 'He' here?
- (b) Where should he be lurking?
- (c) Where should he be sliding?
- (d) Who would pass through the water hole?

Answer:

- (a) 'He' refers to the tiger.
- (b) He should be lurking in the shadows in the forest.
- (c) The tiger should be sliding through the long grass in the forest.
- (d) A plump deer would pass through the water hole.

Question 3.

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

- (a) What does the poet try to suggest through these lines?
- (b) How does the tiger scare the people?
- (c) Why does 'he' snarl?
- (d) How does 'he' show his presence?

Answer:

- (a) The poet is trying to suggest that the tiger should be allowed to live in his natural habitat.
- (b) The tiger scares the people by growling at them and showing his teeth and claws.

- (c) 'He' snarls to show his anger and helplessness.
- (d) 'He' shows his presence by baring his white teeth and claws.

Question 4.

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

- (a) What does the phrase 'his strength behind the bar' suggests?
- (b) Why does the tiger ignore the visitors?
- (c) What is the tiger doing in the cage?
- (d) What does the expression 'stalking the length of the cage' imply?

Answer:

- (a) It means that he is helpless as he is locked in a cage.
- (b) The tiger ignores the visitors because he considers them devoid of feelings as none of them tries to help him out of the prison.
- (c) The tiger is moving slowly and quietly along the length of the cage.
- (d) It implies walking to and fro in helplessness.

Question 5.

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

- (a) What kind of voices does the tiger hear?
- (b) Where does the tiger look at in the night?
- (c) What do you mean by 'patrolling'?
- (d) What is the effect of the repeated use of the word 'brilliant'?

Answer:

- (a) The tiger hears the voice coming from the patrolling cars at night.
- (b) The tiger looks at the brilliant stars shining in the sky at the night.
- (c) 'Patrolling' means to go around an area at regular times to check that it is safe.
- (d) The repeated use of brilliant shows the contrast. The brilliant stars are free while the brilliant eyes are inside the cage.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:-

1. How does a tiger create terror for the villagers?

Answer: The tiger creates terror for the villagers by snarling around their houses as they are situated near the jungle. He frightens them by showing his white fangs and claws.

2. Leslie Norris has described some of the activities of a tiger behind the bars of its cage. Write them.

Answer: Some of the activities of the tiger behind the bars of its cage includes stalking along the length of the cage, ignoring visitors, hearing patrolling cars and staring at the brilliant stars shining in the sky.

3. Describe the tiger in the cage.

Answer: The tiger in the cage is just a diminished form of his original self. He paces up and down in the cage restlessly. He is confined in the narrow cell and keeps staring the stars as if longing for freedom. He is helpless and draws pity for his condition.

4. Describe the tiger in the wild.

Answer: The tiger in the wild is majestic. He is free and lies under the shades and hunts for prey. He moves near the water because food is in plenty there. Sometimes he growls and terrorises the villagers.

5. Why does the tiger express his rage quietly?

Answer: The tiger expresses his rage quietly because there is nothing he can do from behind the bars of his cage. He is helpless as his strength now lies inside the cage. He is no longer free as he was in the jungle.

6. Where should the tiger have been according to the poet?

Answer: The poet thinks that the tiger should have been in the jungle, lurking in the shadow of long grass to prey on the deer near the water hole. He should also be on the outskirts of the jungle snarling around houses and terrifying villagers.

7. How does the tiger make his presence felt in the village?

Answer:

The tiger makes his presence felt by snarling around houses at the jungle's edge and by showing his white fangs and claws.

8. What does the tiger do in his cage?

Answer: The tiger is locked in a concrete cell where he can hardly take a few steps along the length of the cage. He doesn't take any notice of the visitors who come there. With his shining eyes, he keeps staring at the bright stars in the sky.

9. Why should the tiger snarl around houses at the edge of the forest?

Answer: The tiger should snarl around houses at the edge of the forest because of the following reasons. Firstly the villagers will not disturb the peace of the forest. Secondly, they will not kill the animals for money or just for fun.

10. What is the tiger doing? Why is he ignoring the visitors?

Answer: The tiger is slowly and quietly moving along the length of the cage in a threatening manner. He is ignoring the visitors because he considers them devoid of any feelings. None of them thinks of releasing him from his prison. Thus, he stops taking any notice of them.

11. Why do you think the tiger looks at the stars?

Answer: The tiger feels very helpless in the cage. He stares with hope at the brilliant stars shining in the sky. He hopes for the day when he would be able to run free in the wild. The brilliant stars, thus, provides him with some sort of comfort.

12. What does the poet convey through the poem?

Answer: The poet tries to expose the miserable life led by the animals in the zoo. He compares the life of the tiger in the zoo with its life at a natural habitat. The animals have the right to freedom and should not be caged. They should be allowed to run free in the wild.

13. Describe some of the activities of the tiger as stated by the poet.

Answer: Some of the activities of the tiger as stated by the poet are – walking along the cage, hearing the patrolling of cars, ignoring visitors and staring at the brilliant stars of the sky.

14. Why does the tiger express his anger quietly ?

Answer: The tiger expresses his anger quietly, because he is helpless. He can do nothing from behind the bars. He is not free as he was in the forest.

15. What does the poet want to convey through the poem ?

Answer: The poet exhibits the miserable life led by the animals in the zoo. He shows the two different – lives i.e., in the zoo and the life at a natural habitat. According to the poet animals should not be caged. They should be let free in the wild.