

Chapter Review

- "Fog" is a very short poem by Carl Sandburg. It compares the coming of fog to a cat.
- The fog comes silently on 'little cat feet', that is, quietly and gently, without any noise.
- Like a cat sitting on its haunches, the fog sits and looks over the harbour and the city. Then it moves on.
- The poem is a single extended metaphor. The poet does not say the fog IS a cat, but gives it a cat's qualities of silence, softness and quiet watching.
- It is written in free verse, with no rhyme scheme.

Key Terms

Haunches – The hips and thighs of an animal when sitting.

Harbour – A place where ships shelter.

Metaphor – A comparison without 'like' or 'as'.

Free verse – Poetry without rhyme or fixed rhythm.

Silent – Without noise.

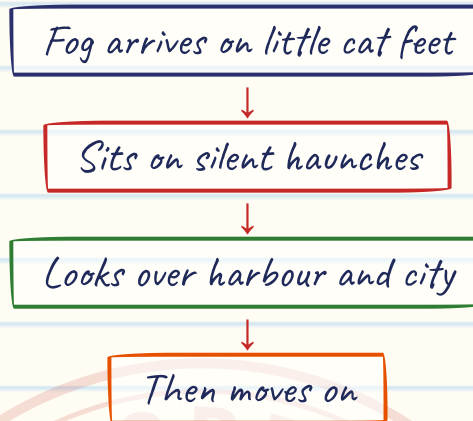
Fog – Thick cloud near the ground.

Imagery – Words that create pictures.

Extended metaphor – A metaphor that continues through the poem.

Diagrams / Flowcharts

Fog as a Cat



Fog and a Cat



About the Poet

- Carl Sandburg (1878-1967) was an American poet. He won three Pulitzer Prizes and wrote about ordinary people and cities.

Poetic Devices

- Metaphor: the fog is described as a cat.
- Imagery: little feet, silent haunches, harbour and city.
- Personification: fog looks over the city.
- Free verse: there is no rhyme scheme; only six lines.
- Brevity: very few words give a clear picture.

Theme

- Nature's gentle, quiet arrival. A simple image can give a deep feeling of calm.

Textbook Exercise Questions

Q.1 (i) What is the fog like? (ii) How does it come? (iii) What does 'it' in line three refer to? (iv) Does the poet say that the fog is like a cat? Find three things.

Ans. (i) The fog is like a cat. (ii) It comes silently on its little cat feet. (iii) 'It' refers to the fog that covers the city. (iv) The poet doesn't say it is a cat, he uses a metaphor. Three things: the fog comes on little cat feet; it looks over the harbour and city like a cat; it sits on silent haunches.

Q.2 Find metaphors: Storm, Train, Fire, School, Home.

Ans. Storm: tiger (pounces over the fields, growls). Train: wind (moves swiftly with a rushing sound). Fire: sun (full of light and energy). School: temple (teaches moral values). Home: nest (a warm shelter with loved ones).

Q.3 Does the poem have a rhyme scheme?

Ans. No. It is written in free verse, with no regular rhyming words or rhythm.

Board Exam Questions (Important)

Q.1 Why does the poet compare fog to a cat? (3-4 lines)

Ans. Both come silently and softly, sit and watch, and move away. The comparison gives the fog a living, gentle quality.

Q.2 Reference to context: "It sits looking over harbour and city on silent haunches and then moves on." Who is 'it'? What does it show?

Ans. 'It' is the fog. It shows that the fog sits quietly over the city for some time, like a cat watching, and then leaves.

Q.3 What is free verse? Is 'Fog' a free-verse poem?

Ans. Free verse is poetry without a regular rhyme scheme or rhythm. Yes, 'Fog' is in free verse.

Q.4 Value-based: What does the poem teach us about observing nature?

Ans. We should observe nature with attention and imagination. Even small and daily events like fog can inspire beauty.

