

Chapter Review

- "A Tiger in the Zoo" is a poem by Leslie Norris. It shows the pain of a wild animal that is kept in a cage.
- In the zoo the tiger stalks up and down on soft, quiet paws, inside his cage. He is full of quiet rage but does nothing, as he cannot get out.
- He ignores the visitors who stare, and the cars that patrol outside. He is not interested in them.
- In his imagination he is in the jungle. He would lurk in the shadow near a water hole, slide through long grass, and wait for a plump deer.
- He would snarl near the houses at the jungle's edge, bare his fangs and claws, and terrorise the village.
- Instead, he is locked in a concrete cell, behind bars. At night he stares at the bright stars with his bright eyes, full of anger and longing for freedom.
- The poem makes us think about the cruelty of keeping wild animals in captivity.

Key Terms

Stalks – Walks with slow, stiff steps like a hunter.

Quiet rage – Anger that is held inside.

Lurking – Hiding to attack.

Fangs – Long sharp teeth.

Terrorise – To frighten greatly.

Patrolling – Going around to guard.

Captivity – The state of being kept locked up.

Brilliant – Very bright.

Diagrams / Flowcharts

Tiger in the Cage vs in the Wild

In the Cage

- Stalks a few steps
- Quiet rage, velvet quiet
- Concrete cell, behind bars
- Ignores visitors

In the Wild

- Lurks in shadow
- Slides through long grass
- Waits at water hole for plump deer
- Terrorises the village

Mood of the Tiger

Walks quietly in the cage



Quiet rage grows



Ignores visitors and cars



Dreams of jungle life



Stares at bright stars

About the Poet

- Leslie Norris (1921-2006) was a Welsh poet and teacher, known for poems on nature and memory.

Poetic Devices

- Repetition: "quiet" (velvet quiet, quiet rage) and "brilliant" (eyes and stars) add intensity and rhythm.
- Contrast: free life in the jungle against confined life in the zoo.
- Imagery: visual images of grass, shadows, fangs and stars.

- Alliteration: 'sliding through long grass', 'stalks' and soft 's' sounds suggest stealth.
- Personification of the tiger's feelings: rage, longing.

Theme / Message

- Freedom is a basic right of every living being. Animals should be protected in their natural homes, and zoos should treat them with care.
- Zoos have a role in saving endangered species, but sanctuaries and national parks are better alternatives.

Textbook Exercise Questions

Q.1 Words describing the tiger's movements and the two places (cage and wild).

Ans. In the cage: stalks, few steps, quiet rage, locked in a concrete cell, behind bars, ignoring visitors, patrolling cars.

In the wild: lurking in shadow, sliding through long grass, snarling around houses, baring white fangs and claws, terrorising the village, water hole, plump deer.

The contrast shows how the poet uses words and images to show the tiger's lost freedom.

Q.2 What is the effect of the repetition of "quiet" and "brilliant"?

Ans. The repetition increases the effect of the tiger's silent helpless rage ('velvet quiet', 'quiet rage'). It also links the tiger's brilliant eyes to the brilliant stars, showing the majesty of both. It adds rhythm and beauty.

Q.3 Are zoos necessary for the protection of some species? Are they useful for educating the public? Are there alternatives?

Ans. Zoos can protect endangered animals from poaching and teach the public the importance of wildlife. Alternatives are wildlife sanctuaries, forest reserves and national parks, which give animals a natural habitat.

Q.4 Take a point of view for or against zoos.

Ans. Sample: Zoos are useful because they save endangered species and educate people, but animals suffer in small cages. Therefore zoos should be large, natural and used only for conservation and care.

Board Exam Questions (Important)

Q.1 Why does the tiger stare at the stars? (3 lines)

Ans. He stares at the bright stars because he longs for freedom and the wild. They remind him of the open night sky of the jungle, which is far from his cage.

Q.2 Reference to context: "On pads of velvet quiet, In his quiet rage." (a) Who? (b) Meaning of 'velvet quiet'?

Ans. (a) The tiger in the zoo. (b) His paws are soft like velvet and make no sound as he walks in the cage. His anger is silent as he is helpless.

Q.3 How does the poet show the tiger's longing for his natural life?

Ans. By contrasting his dreams of lurking in the shadow, slipping through grass and hunting deer with his present life in a concrete cell. The word 'rage' shows his anger at captivity.

Q.4 Value-based: Should wild animals be kept in zoos?

Ans. They should be kept only if they are endangered and need safety. Otherwise they should live in natural habitats, since every animal has a

right to freedom.

