

Grade X
Poem 9 Fog

Main Points of the Poem

- ❖ The poet gives a powerful image of fog through a metaphorical act.
- ❖ The fog turns into a cat and the cat morphs back into the fog.
- ❖ Fog comes silently and spreads all around.
- ❖ It comes silently as a cat comes stalking.
- ❖ It engulfs everything in it and looks over the harbour and the city.
- ❖ It continues sitting silently on its haunches like a cat then moves on.

Extract-based Question

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

It sits looking
Over harbour and city
On silent haunches...

- a. What does 'it' refer to?
- b. What is 'it' looking at?
- c. Find out the word from the extract which means 'a port for ships'.

Ans. a. 'It' refers to 'fog'

b. 'It' is looking at the harbour and cities sitting on its haunches.

c. The word is 'harbour'.

Short Answer Type Questions

1. How does the poet employ the double imagery of the fog and the cat?

Ans. The poetic device of metaphor is very effectively used in the poem. The fog is converted into a cat and the cat is morphed back into the fog. The silent arrival of the fog is like a little cat. The fog stays there sitting like a little cat on its haunches.

2. Describe the similarities that have been mentioned in the poem between the fog and a cat.

Ans. It is a dual image that changes and merges again in the original. The fog changes into a cat the cat changes into the fog. Both of them come silently unseen and suddenly. Both engulf everything underneath them. The fog engulfs everything, the harbour and the city in its fold. The fog sits silently as a cat sits on its haunches. Then it disappears and moves ahead.

3. Which aspect of nature Carl Sandburg presents in the poem 'Fog'?

Ans. The poet presents nature in its raw and natural state. The fog comes as if from nowhere. It comes suddenly and silently like a little cat. The fog's power is overwhelming. It engulfs everything, the city and the harbour in its all embracing fold. Then following the law of change, it disappears, no one knows where.

4. Does the poet actually say that the fog is like a cat. Then how do we know that the fog is like a cat?

Ans. The poet compares fog to a cat. A cat comes without making any noise and goes away. In the same way, the fog comes and spreads slowly and silently over harbour and city.

5. What three things tell us that the fog is like a cat?

Ans. (i) The fog comes slowly and silently like a cat. (ii) The cat sits on its haunches for some time looking around and then moves away as it came. (iii) Similarly the fog spreads over the harbour and city for some time. Finally, it moves away like a cat.

6. The fog comes on like cat feet. How does the poet compare the fog with cat?

What poetic device is used here?

Ans. The cat comes silently and slowly. In the same way the fog also comes slowly and silently. The poetic device used here is personification. The fog has been personified.

7. 'The fog comes on little cat feet.' How does the fog come? Which poetic device is used here? Explain.

Ans. The fog comes silently like a cat. It appears suddenly. No one can make out its arrival as it moves silently.

The poetic device used here is personification. 'The fog' has been personified here. It is an abstract idea describing the physical force of the fog, an inanimate object to that of a cat, a living being.

Long Answer Type Questions

1. How does Carl Sandburg describes the arrival, stay and departure of the fog through the image of a metaphorical cat?

Ans. The poet employs a double image. The fog is converted into a cat and the cat morphs back into the fog. The arrival of the fog is silent and sudden. It comes as if from nowhere. Its arrival is like a small cat. It sits and stays for a while. It engulfs everything in its all embracing fold. It spreads its fold everywhere from the harbour to the city. It sits silently as a cat sits on its haunches. The fog stays but not for long. A cat never stays at one place for a long time. So, the fog moves ahead no one knows where. Carl Sandburg describes the raw aspect of nature, the all embracing and prevailing fog. Its silent power is felt everywhere from the harbour to the city.

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SELF ASSESSMENT

Short Answer Type Questions

1. What metaphor does the poet use to describe the fog and in what way?
2. Name at least two qualities which are shared by both – the fog and the cat.
3. Describe the arrival and departure of the fog. What is its effect on surroundings?
4. Can you call 'Fog' a nature poem? How?

Long Answer Type Questions

1. Describe the arrival, stay and departure of the fog. Describe the double imagery used Carl Sandburg in the poem.
2. How does the poet describe the metaphorical cat?



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