**How to tell Wild Animals**

**Extract Based Questions**

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

1. If ever you should go by chance To jungles in the east;  
   And if there should to you advance A large and tawny beast,  
   If he roars at you as you’re dyin’  
   You’ll know it is the Asian Lion ….  
   (a) State features of an Asian Lion.  
   (b) What happens when the lion roars?  
   (c) What do you mean by ‘tawny’ ?  
   (d) What is the physical appearance of the lion is the stanza?  
   **Answer:**  
   (a) An Asian Lion is large and brownish-yellow in colour.  
   (b) When the lion roars, it is very scary and it feels like we are going to die.  
   (c) ‘Tawny’ means brownish-yellow in colour.  
   (d) The lion in the stanza is large and tawny.

**2.** Or if some time when roaming round, A noble wild beast greets you,  
With black stripes on a yellow ground, Just notice if he eats you.  
This simple rule may help you learn The Bengal Tiger to discern.  
(a) How can you recognise a Tiger?  
(b) Why does the poet call him a noble animal?      
(c) How is Bengal Tiger different from the other animals?  
(d) What does the word ‘ground’ means here?  
**Answer:**  
(a) A tiger can be recognised with the black stripes on his yellow hide.  
(b) The poet calls a him a noble animal as he is very impressive in size and does not roar loudly.  
(c) Bengal Tiger is different from the other animals as he is quiet and roams silently.  
(d) It means the hide or the background that is the skin of the Tiger.

**3.** If strolling forth, a beast you view,  
Whose hide with spots in peppered,  
As soon as he has lept on you,  
You’ll know it is the Leopard.  
Twill do no good to roar with pain,  
He’ll only lep and lep again.

(a) While walking, how does a leopard’s hide appear to be?  
(b) When does one come to know that it is a leopard?  
(c) Give a synonym of ‘strolling’.  
(d) Why it won’t do any good to roar with pain?  
**Answer:**  
(a) A leopard’s hide appears to be peppered while walking.  
(b) According to the poet, one comes to know that it is a leopard when it leaps or jumps on him.  
(c) Walking  
(d) A leopard’s grip is the toughest one, so one can’t do anything under the grip of that beast.

**4.** If when you’re walking round your yard You meet a creature there,  
Who hugs you very, very hard,  
Be sure it is a Bear,  
If you have any doubts, I guess He’ll give you just one more caress.  
(a) Who is going to hug and why?  
(b) This hug is also called?  
(c) What is the antonym of ‘Caress’?  
(d) Where can a bear be found?

Answer:

(a) The bear is going to hug you hard to embrace you.

(b) A Bearhug

(c) The antonym of ‘caress’ is ‘boo’.

(d) A bear can be found in the yard where it may get nectar from the beehives.

**5**. Though to distinguish beasts of prey A novice might nonplus,

The crocodile you always may

Tell from the Hyena thus:

Hyenas come with merry smiles;

But if they weep they’re Crocodiles.

(a) Between which animals would it be difficult to differentiate?

(b) How does a Hyena differ from a Crocodile?

(c) Quote a saying famous for Crocodile.

(d) Where does a novice may get confused?

Answer:

(a) It would be difficult to differentiate between a Crocodile and a Hyena.

(b) A Hyena laughs as it swallows its victim, while a Crocodile weeps as it swallows its prey.

(c) “Crocodile tears” is a famous saying for Crocodile.

(d) A novice may get confused in differentiating between a hyena and a crocodile.

**6.** The true Chameleon is small,  
A lizard sort of things;  
He hasn’t any ears at all,  
And not a single wing.  
If there is nothing on the tree,  
‘Tis the Chameleon you see.  
(a) What does a Chameleon look like?      
(b) Describe any two characteristics of a Chameleon.  
(c) Give an antonym of ‘small’.  
(d) Where can a chameleon be found?  
**Answer:**  
(a) A Chameleon looks like a lizard.  
(b) A Chameleon does not have ears and wings.  
(c) Big  
(d) A chameleon can be found on the tree.

**Short Answer Type Questions**

1. **How can you identify the Asian lion and the Bengal Tiger?**

The Asian Lion has a large body and a brownish-yellow coat. It roars loudly when it attacks it’s prey. On the other hand, the Bengal Tiger has black stripes on its yellow coat. It silendy attacks it’s prey.

**2. Write the sum and substance of the poem, “How to Tell Wild Animals”.**  
The poet, Carolyn Wells, in the poem suggests some of the dangerous ways to identify the wild animals. The poem is full of humorous examples when the poet tries to distinguish one animal from the other. Moreover, the poem educates us by describing the various features of wild animals.

**3. How can you distinguish between a tiger and a leopard?**    
A tiger has black stripes on its yellow coat. A leopard on the other hand, does not have any stripes. It has spots peppered on its body. Moreover, a tiger kills only when it is hungry, while a leopard can kill for the pleasure of killing by pouncing continuously on its prey.

**4. How can you distinguish between a hyena and a crocodile?**A hyena laughs as it swallows its victim, whereas a crocodile weeps as it swallows its victim.

**5. What are the distinctive features of the Asian lion as given in the poem?**  
The Asian Lion is large in stature. It is brownish-yellow in colour. It roars very loudly. The sound of its roar is so terrible to hear that it can make one almost die due to fear. The Asian Lion is found in the forests of East Asian countries.

**6.** **What does the Bengal Tiger look like? What is so distinct about him?**The Bengal Tiger roams freely in the forest. It is noble and majestic in stature. It wears black stripes on a yellow hide. When it notices someone it tries to eat him. The Bengal tiger attacks its prey very silently and grasps it with his terrifying teeth.

**7. How does a leopard behave when he sees someone?**      
As leopard has black spots all over its body. As soon as it sees someone, it leaps over him at once. It keeps on pouncing continuously on its victim, attacks him and starts eating him

**8. How does the poet describe the bear?**  
The poet describes the bear in a humorous way. He says that as soon as a bear sees a human being, it hugs him tightly. It clasps its prey tightly with both its hands and squeezes him to death. If he is still alive, he gives him another tight hug to kill him.

**9. What is so weird about the Hyena and the crocodile?**  
Some animals such as the hyena and the crocodile are famous for their weird behaviour. For example, a laughing hyena’s voice resembles human’s laughing sound. Moreover, a hyena laughs while swallowing its prey, while a crocodile shed tears.

**10. Describe a few characteristics of a chameleon.**A chameleon is a garden lizard and is an expert at camouflage. It changes its colour as per its surroundings. This ability of camouflage helps it in saving it from the hunters. A chameleon does not have – any ears or wings.

**11. What is the theme of the poem — ‘How to Tell Wild Animals’?**

**Answer:** The theme of the poem is to create humour. The poet creates humour by suggesting dangerous ways of identifying wild animals. You can identify most of the beasts while they are attacking you. Instead of shouting for help or trying to protect yourself, you are busy identifying the attacker—the idea creates humour.

**12. Why does the poet say that a bear’s ‘hug’ may confuse a novice?**

**Answer:** It is the tendency of a bear to kill his victim by embracing him. He hugs the victim so tight that he usually dies. But a novice who does not know the ways of bears may misunderstand his hug. He may think that it is a loving embrace.

**13. What humorous descriptions do you find in the poem?**

**Answer:** We find some humorous descriptions about the animals in the poem. The poet has created it by the selection of words and his pattern of explaining. As the Bengal tiger is described noble, the bear hugs and the hyena smiles.

**Long Answer Questions**

1. **The poet has successfully used humour to be able to ‘tell’ or identify ‘Wild Animals’. How do you think we need lots of it in our daily life?**

**Answer:**Humour is the fuel of life. Without it, it would become difficult to continue living. Today, the life of the common man is typically mired in stress, tension, problems and sadness. It is amazing how the smallest problems may take on epic proportions for a common person. In such a situation, it becomes necessary to have a little humour in life. It gives us the much-needed respite from our monotonous routine and helps us face life more positively. Thus, the poetess’ successful use of humour helps liven up our minds and brings a smile on our faces.

1. **Every animal is unique and has some special characteristics. What tricks does the poet adopt in distinguishing various wild animals?**

**Answer:**No doubt, every animal is unique. Every wild animal has his own special trait, colour, size and characteristics. The Asian Lion is found in the jungles of the eastern regions. It is a huge and mighty creature with brownish hide. His roar is enough to terrorise a person to death. The Bengal Tiger is a ‘noble’ and impressive wild animal. He has yellowish hide and black stripes all over it. The Leopard has dark spots all over his body. He is very agile. The moment he sees its prey, he pounces upon it without showing any mercy. The bear is known by his strong and tight hug. It becomes rather difficult for a novice to distinguish among wild animals. However, hyenas and crocodiles can be easily recognised. Hyenas come smiling merrily while crocodiles appear to be weeping. The chameleon is a small creature like a lizard. He has no ears and doesn’t have even a single wing. You can find him sitting on a tree.

1. **Carolyn Wells takes liberties with language and employs humour to describe the wild animals. Give some examples of humorous descriptions in the poem.**

**Answer:**It depends on the subject matter what style a poet chooses to adopt while writing a poem. The poem describes wild animals and how to distinguish them. To avoid oversimplification and monotony, the poet uses ‘humour’ as an effective weapon. The ‘humour’ used in the poem is suggestive and mild. It is not biting or scratching in effect. If the Asian Lion “roars at you as you’re dying”. The Bengal Tiger is a ‘noble’ wild beast that “greets you” when you are roaming around in the jungle. The unsparing Leopard will show no mercy and it will “do no good to roar with pain.” If you have any doubts, the bear will “give you just one more caress.” The poet uses subtle humour when he says: “Hyenas come with merry smiles; But if they weep, they’re Crocodiles”.