
CLASS -X ENGLISH
NCERT SOLUTIONS-FIRST FLIGHT (POEM)
How to Tell Wild Animals

Answer

Page No: 45 Thinking about the Poem

Answer1: No, 'dying' does not rhyme with 'lion'. It is for this reason that the poet has used 'dyin' so that when we pronounce it, it rhymes with 'lion'.

Answer2: The poet suggests that if a large and tawny beast in the jungle in the east advances towards us, then it is an Asian lion. We can identify it when it roars at us while we are dying with fear. When while roaming we come across a wild beast that is yellow in colour with black stripes, it is a Bengal tiger. We can identify it when it eats us.

Answer3: No, the words 'lept' and 'lep' are spelt incorrectly. The poet has spelled them like this in order to maintain the rhythm of the poem. When spelled this way, they rhyme with the first part of 'leopard', thus giving emphasis to 'leopard' in each line.

Answer4: A 'bearhug' is the bear's tight embrace. Hyenas never laugh. But their faces look like that. Crocodiles do not weep but tears come when they swallow their victims.

Answer5: The line "A novice might nonplus" can be correctly written as "A novice might be nonplussed". The poet's incorrect line is better in the poem as it maintains the rhyme scheme of the poem. By writing it incorrectly, 'nonplus' rhymes with 'thus'.

Answer6: Yes, many poets take such liberties to create proper rhyming. These are for example: Kirk is used for 'church' to rhyme with 'work'. Ken is used for 'see' to rhyme with 'pen'.
