

# St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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Session: 2024-2025 - Notes

Class:X

Sub:English

Topic:Poem- How to tell Wild Animals

## Answer the following questions

Q1. How does the poet suggest that you identify the lion and the tiger? When can you do so, according to him?

Ans. 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 the lion 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.

Q2. What is the theme of the poem, 'How to Tell Wild Animals'?

Ans. 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.

Q3. Why does the poet say that a bear's 'hug' may confuse a novice?

Ans. 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.

Q4. Which genre is most appropriate for the poem? Substantiate your choice with reference to the poem "How to Tell Wild Animals".

Ans. It's humour which I think the entire poem is replete with. The incorrect lines, utter surprises waiting for its readers and the narration of wild beasts in a funny way make it humorous. The way the poet establishes the difference between a hyena and a crocodile distinctly demonstrates its humorous part.

Q5. Many animals can be identified according to the poet's suggestion. Name the animals. Which ones would you like to identify? Are there any lessons for us from this poem?

Ans. The poet has listed down the ways of identifying seven animals in the poem, viz., the Asian lion, the Bengal tiger, the leopard, the bear, the hyena, crocodiles and chameleons. As for me, I would like to identify the bear, the Bengal tiger and the leopard. However, putting my life on the line just to identify the tiger and the leopard doesn't seem worth the risk! So, if I see a noble beast with black stripes on yellow, I'll know the tiger, and the peppered spots will reveal the leopard. The bear hug, I wouldn't mind! The poet, using humour, seems to warn readers against venturing too close to these animals.