



**BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, PITAMPURA, DELHI – 110034**

**SUBJECT:- ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**CLASS X**

**TOPIC: A TIGER IN THE ZOO (FIRST FLIGHT)**



**GEORGE LESLIE NORRIS**

**George Leslie Norris (1921-2006)** was a prize winning Welsh poet and short story writer. He is considered as most important Welsh writers of the post war period and his literary works have won many prizes. His famous works are Finding Gold, The loud winder, phoenix living poets series: Ransoms, etc.

**OBJECTIVES :**

- TO ENABLE THE STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF FREEDOM.
- TO ENABLE THE STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND THE DANGERS OF DEFORESTATION AND BLESSINGS OF FORESTATION.
- TO ENABLE THE STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND THAT ALL ANIMALS WILL BE HAPPY ONLY IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT.
- TO ENABLE THE STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PRESENT GENERATION IN PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT AND EARTH.
- TO ENABLE THE STUDENTS TO LEARN TO RECITE POEM WITH PROPER INTONATION AND RHYTHM.

**GUIDELINES :**

READ THE POEM CAREFULLY. ATTEMPT ALL THE QUESTIONS GIVEN IN THE ASSIGNMENT IN YOUR FAIR NOTEBOOK.

## **A TIGER IN THE ZOO**



He stalks in his vivid stripes  
The few steps of his cage,  
On pads of velvet quiet,  
In his quiet rage.

He should be lurking in shadow,  
Sliding through long grass  
Near the water hole  
Where plump deer pass.

He should be snarling around houses  
At the jungle's edge,  
Baring his white fangs, his claws,  
Terrorising the village!

But he's locked in a concrete cell,  
His strength behind bars,  
Stalking the length of his cage,  
Ignoring visitors.

He hears the last voice at night,  
The patrolling cars,  
And stares with his brilliant eyes  
At the brilliant stars.

**LESLIE NORRIS**

## SUMMARY

The poem begins with a description of a tiger that is very beautiful and is walking in his little cage. He has beautiful stripes on his skin and has velvet like soft paws. But the tiger is not happy and is quite angry about being confined in the cage. The poet says that if the tiger was not confined to the zoo cage, he would have been hiding himself behind the long grass near some water body, in order to catch its prey i.e the deer. Also, he would have terrorised the residents of the villages around the forest area. But the reality is totally opposite to this. He was confined in a cage which was made up of strong building material and he was helpless there. He could not show his power to the visitors, therefore, never tried to terrorize them. The tiger is described as being powerless and agonized by the poet. He says that during night also he is alone, hearing the voice of the patrolling vehicles of police and looking at the stars. The cage life has totally changed the tiger's personality. The poet is trying to say that the animal which is famous for its fearlessness and freedom is confined and sad due to the human beings who want to derive pleasure by looking at him in the zoo cage.

## LITERARY DEVICES:

- Alliteration : Repetition of sound 'b' in behind bars.
- Metaphor: Tiger's paws are compared with velvet (pads of velvet)
- Enjambment: Sentence is continuing to next line without any punctuation mark ( He should be snarling around houses ... jungle's edge)
- Imagery: The poet tries to create an image about the tiger (He stalks in his vivid stripes, The few steps of his cage)
- Oxymoron: use of adjectives opposite in meaning (quiet rage)

## LINK FOR VIDEO:

[https://www.diksha.gov.in/cbse/play/collection/do\\_312796455301447680117634?contentType=TextBook&contentId=do\\_312795699678494720111562](https://www.diksha.gov.in/cbse/play/collection/do_312796455301447680117634?contentType=TextBook&contentId=do_312795699678494720111562)

## ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS

### I. Short answer questions:

1. Bring out the message of the poem 'A Tiger in the Zoo'.
2. How does the tiger terrify the villagers?
3. Elucidate the contrast drawn by the poet between the tiger in the zoo with the tiger in the jungle.
4. Why does the tiger ignore the visitors?
5. What does the tiger do at night?

### II. Read the extract given below and answer questions that follow:

A) *'He stalks in his vivid stripes  
The few steps of his cage,  
On pads of velvet quiet,  
In his quiet rage.'*

- a) Who is 'he' in the above lines?
- b) What is the poet trying to convey through the phrase 'the few steps'?
- c) Explain 'the pads of velvet quiet'.
- d) Identify the figures of speech used in the above lines.
- e) Find a word from the passage that means the same as :  
i) anger                      ii) distinct

B) *'He should be lurking in shadow,  
Sliding through long grass  
Near the water hole  
Where plump deer pass'*

- a) Name the poem and its poet.
- b) Where should the tiger be now?
- c) For what should he be lurking?
- d) Give the synonyms for the words:  
i) plump                      ii) lurk

C) *'He hears the last voice at night,  
The patrolling cars,  
And stares with his brilliant eyes  
At the brilliant stars.'*

- a) What is 'the last voice' here in the stanza?
- b) How does he stare at the stars?
- c) Why have his eyes been called 'brilliant'?
- d) Give the meaning of 'stare'.