

What do the Animals Really Think (Poem)

What do the Animals Really Think

Poem

<p>Read and Enjoy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Patricia Walter is a poet and an artist. In this poem, she talks about how animals see our world and us. We human beings think we are the greatest thing created in this Universe. But when we see ourselves from the point of view of animals, we realise we are not all that great. The poem is written in eleven unrhymed couplets, asking questions which themselves contain the answers. ✧ In the first couplet the poet states the focus of the poem: what is the real opinion that animals have about human beings and their modern ways? ✧ Second couplet: A human being is so busy with his/her daily routine of tasks and job, that he/she has no time for enjoyment and is exhausted. ✧ Third couplet: The animals wonder whether human beings have forgotten that they have been freely given the beauty and love of nature and all its creatures. ✧ Fourth couplet: The poet again wonders what animals really think of man's life in today's world. ✧ Fifth couplet: Most of our lives are spent indoors with man-made gadgets. So here the animals wonder whether man has forgotten the feel of the earth, the moist, fertile soil from which nature brings forth such rich fruits and harvests. ✧ Sixth couplet: Animals wonder how human beings have forgotten about the flowers and wheat and other crops that humans have grown all through the ages. ✧ Seventh couplet: Animals notice that human beings do not care for the everyday life they had lived earlier, as there are other people and other equipment now to take care of fields. ✧ Eight couplet: The poet also wonders what animals feel about humans rushing around in vehicles. There was a time when animals helped them to travel, on horses, camels, elephants, donkeys, bullock carts, etc. There are still places where animals help man to travel, like sleds drawn by huskies, on the backs of yaks, camels and elephants, etc. But now this is rare. ✧ Ninth couplet: Man was healthier and happier when he walked and breathed fresh, clean air and looked at the bright blue sky above him. ✧ Tenth couplet: Finally, the poet draws attention to the change in man's character and attitude, which the animals have noticed. Man is not the happy, friendly warm-hearted creature that he was earlier. He has become a cold-hearted person, and his modern conduct reflects that coldness. ✧ Eleventh couplet: The poet's final comment is very strong. The animals are so happy that they are animals, and not human beings with their modern ways. ✧ This poem all through shows how shallow, cold-hearted and artificial man and his life have become. It is seen through the eyes of animals that have remained in touch with nature and its beauty.
<p>Read and Understand</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Exercise A, B and C: Explain the exercises. Do them orally first. Then ask the students to write the answers in their books/notebooks. It is advisable to check and assess their work individually.

Think and Answer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Exercise A and B: Explain the exercises. Do them orally first. Then ask students to write the answers in their books. It is advisable to check and assess their work individually.
Appreciating the Poem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Repetition in a poem, particularly one which has a rhyme and rhythm, is called a refrain. Here it becomes a repetition of an idea and thought. ✧ Exercise A: Do the exercise orally and then let the students write the answers. Announce the answers aloud and let them check their work on their own.
Word Wise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Brush up and explain prefixes and suffixes – words/letters added before and after a word to make a new word. ✧ Prefixes like dis-, im-, in-, mis-, be-, un-. ✧ Suffixes like -able, -en, -ship, -ful, -ion, -ment, -ate, -er, -less. ✧ Use the given instructions and examples and add your own wherever possible. ✧ Exercise A: Do the exercise orally first. Then ask the students to write down the answers. Announce the answers aloud and let them check their work in pairs or on their own.
Dictionary Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Exercise A: Brush up synonyms [similar meanings]. Ask the students to consult their dictionaries and find the synonyms for the given words. Ask the answers from the students at random and write down the answers on the board. Let the students check their own work.
Write Well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Exercise A and B: Explain the exercises and ask the students to do both the exercises on their own. It is advisable to check and assess their work individually.
AIL Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Exercise A: Ask students to bring the materials or supply from the school. Let the students enjoy making the turtles! Guide, and appreciate their efforts. Display their work in class.