



Multiple Choice Questions:

Choose the correct answer:

1. Who is the poet of the poem 'The Snake Trying'?
- (a) Edward Lear
 - (b) W.W.E. Ross
 - (c) Gieve Patel
 - (d) William Wordsworth

Answer: (b) W.W.E. Ross

2. Who chased the snake?
- (a) man
 - (b) Mongoose
 - (c) crocodile
 - (d) eagle

Answer: (a) man

3. Where did the snake lie until observed?
- (a) in a tree
 - (b) on the water
 - (c) on the sand
 - (d) in the mud

Answer: (c) on the sand

4. Who is the Snake harmful too?
- (a) men,
 - (b) Women
 - (c) children
 - (d) none of the above

Answer: (d) none of the above

5. What does the snake glide through?
- (a) mud
 - (b) ice
 - (c) water
 - (d) all of the above

Answer: (c) water

6. The snake has a _____.
- (a) thin long body
 - (b) thick small body

- (c) huge body
- (d) all of the above

Answer: (a) thin long body

7. In the poet's views, the snakes are
- (a) harmful to us
 - (b) not harmful to us
 - (c) enemy to us
 - (d) all of the above

Answer: (b) not harmful to us

8. Where did the snake go and disappear?
- (a) in the ripples of water among green reeds
 - (b) in the bushes
 - (c) in a hole
 - (d) none

Answer: (a) in the ripples of water among green reeds

9. What was the snake trying to save itself from?
- (a) from mongoose
 - (b) from other animals
 - (c) from a man with a stick
 - (d) all

Answer: (c) from a man with a stick

10. What is the theme of the poem?
- (a) stop cruelty towards animals
 - (b) hate animals
 - (c) be away from animals
 - (d) animals are dangerous

Answer: (a) stop cruelty towards animals

11. What is our opinion about most of the snakes?
- (A) fearsome symbols of death
 - (B) faithful friends
 - (C) loyal to the human being
 - (D) not harmful to us

Ans. (A) fearsome symbols of death

12. What is the snake trying to escape?
- (A) stone (B) bullet (C) mud (D) stick

Ans. (D) stick

13. How does the poet describe the shapes of the snake's body?
- (A) graceful (B) beautiful (C) ugly (D) both (A) and (B)

Ans. (D) both (A) and (B)

14. Of what colour snake is the poet talking about?
- (A) red (B) white (C) green, (D) black

Ans. C. green

Long answer questions:

Q.1 Why does the man want to kill the snake? How does the snake protect itself?

Ans: Seeing the snake lying on the sand, the man sees it as a potential threat and reacts to it in that manner. He takes a stick and rushes to attack the snake. He tries to kill it, or at least hurt it. The snake, which is a garden snake, and not dangerous even to children, makes good its escape. He does not react even to provocation.

He only tries to escape before the man can reach it and kill it. The movement of the snake is very graceful and elegant. The snake does not stick to one straight path but wends its way in and out of the path. At last, the snake floats over the water and hides itself among the green reeds.

Q.2 What is the central idea of the poem “The Snake Trying”?

Ans: The poet says that all snakes are not venomous or harmful. Nor do they attack without provocation. Even if a snake is poisonous, it will do us no harm if it doesn't see any danger from us. It is wrong to attack or kill a snake as soon as we see it. But sadly, human beings always try to kill a snake as soon as they see it. All creatures have a right to their life. Like the snake in this poem all try to save themselves in case of danger.

Q.3 How would you react to snake's presence? How would you learn the value of ‘Live and Let Live’?

Ans: I would jump, tremble and get freezed for sometimes in presence of a snake. Of course, *Live and Let Live* is a natural phenomenon and easily understandable. We must understand that it is a Godly thing and should abide ourselves with it. The poet has shown his love and emotions for the snake's presence and this that seems to be taken of the fact that the ordinary human beings should also show the same tendency. Love is eternal and everlasting all the living beings are connected to one another with the common language of love and University. It spreads fraternity, peace and harmony all around. Such a pions tract should be had by each and every one.

So, the value of *Live and Let Live* should always be promoted in human beings.

Q.4 do you think that it all living beings should have love for one another as the poet has also expressed similar feelings give a detailed answer.

Ans: Yes, it is true that all human beings must have love for one another as love is a natural and easily understandable phenomenon. Love is a godly quality and we should have abundance of love in our heart. The poet has a deep-rooted love and he expresses on his emotions towards the snake that seems to be taken of the fact that all the ordinary human's beings must show the same mentality. Love is everlasting and it never comes to an end. It is a Universal instinct so no one can ignore it. Love is a common language of all living creatures so it binds them together. It is the quality of love alone that spreads peace and harmony all around and promotes fraternity. Each and every living creature should have such holy and pious trait.

Hence, it can be clearly said that it loves is an essential part of our lives. So, everyone should try its best to promote the feeling of love and harmony.

Q.5 The poem ‘The Snake Trying’ by W W E Ross present two divergent attitudes towards the snake. Discuss both attitudes.

The poem, ‘The Snake Trying’ by W W E Ross presents two divergent attitudes towards the snake. The Man with the stick shows a cruel and unsympathetic attitude. He believes that all snakes are poisonous and a threat to human beings. Therefore, although this particular snake is lying comfortably on the sandy bank of the pond with no intention of harming anyone, the man gets ready to kill him the moment he sees him. The poet, on the contrary, has a loving and kind attitude towards the snake. He does not find it to be ugly or terrifying. Instead he finds beauty and elegance in his body and displays appreciation for the appealing looks of this creature. Moreover, the poet seems to have a thorough knowledge of the behavior of the different varieties of snakes. He informs the man with the stick that the snakes with green bodies absolutely harmless and cannot harm even children. He does not want search a harmless snake to be killed. Instead, he should be permitted to escape to safety by hiding himself among the reeds.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN ABOUT 30-40 WORDS

Q1. Why does the snake suddenly curve his body?

Ans:- The snake, lying comfortably on the sands on the bank of a pond, suddenly notices a person trying to kill him with a stick. Naturally, he cannot remain to lie at rest when face to face with death. He twists and wriggles his body to avoid being struck by the stick.

Q2. How does the snake look when he curves his slender body?

Ans:- While curving his slender body with quick movements to avoid being attacked, the snake looks quite fascinating and elegant to the poet. The various shapes formed by the twisting and turning of his body do not at all look frightening or ugly.

Q3. Where does the snake start moving to avoid being killed?

Ans:-The snake starts moving towards the pond to avoid being killed. He glides on the surface of the pond’s water to reach the bank on the other side which has slim and green reeds like the snake’s body. Here he can easily camouflage himself and avoid being detected and killed.

Q4. Does the poet support the person with the stick?

Ans:- No, the poet does not at all support or approve of the person who intends to kill the snake with his stick. He does not find any reason why a harmless, non-poisonous, beautiful, and graceful snake should be put to death. He wants the snake to be spared and allowed to live.

Q5. What is the poet’s request to the person chasing the snake?

Ans:- The poet’s request to the person chasing the snake with a stick is to let the snake go free to lead his life. He wants the person to let the snake slither away through the water to the reeds where he may hide himself to safety.

Q6. Why does the poet want the snake to be spared?

The poet wants the snake to be spared because he is non-venomous and hence harmless. He is so safe that he cannot harm even a child. Since the snake is not a threat to any human being, there is no reason in killing him.

Q7. The poet finds the snake beautiful. Find the words he uses to convey its beauty.

Ans. The poet uses the following words: beautiful and graceful, glides, small and green. The snake is small and green. He finds the snake beautiful and graceful. The way it moves is also a delight to watch.

Q8. Why does the poet think that it is foolishness to kill the snake?

Ans. When we see the snake, we try our utmost to kill it. It is our foolishness. We know that snakes are poisonous but it will do no harm to us unless it sees any danger from us. Snakes always bite in self-protection otherwise they are harmless to even children. However, human beings often try to kill them.

Q9. Where did the snake finally vanish away?

Ans. The snake finally vanished away into the green thin reeds. It would lay there until it would be noticed and chased away by some people. The ripples in the green slim reeds are the heavens for it. So, it disappeared into the green thin reeds.

READ THE EXTRACT GIVEN BELOW AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW

STANZA 1

**The snake trying
to escape the pursuing stick,
with sudden carvings of thin
long body. How beautiful
and graceful are his shapes!
He glides through the water away
front the stroke.**

Questions:

- (a) Name the poem and the poet.
- (b) What is the snake trying to escape from?
- (c) Why does he take sudden carvings of his body?
- (d) What looks beautiful and graceful?
- (e) Where does the snake go and why?

Answers:

- (a) The name of the poem is 'The Snake Trying' and the name of the poet is 'W.W.E. Ross'.
- (b) The snake is trying to escape from the pursuing stick.
- (c) He takes sudden curves of his body to escape himself from the stroke of the stick.
- (d) His shapes of the body while taking curvings look graceful and beautiful.
- (e) The snake goes through the water to save himself.

STANZA 2

**O let him go over the water
into the reeds to hide
without hurt Small and green
he is harmless even to children.**

Questions:

- (a) Name the poem and the poet.
- (b) Who does 'him' refer to in the first line of the stanza?
- (c) Where is he going?
- (d) Of what size and colour is he?
- (e) What is his nature?

Answers:

- (a) The name of the poem is 'The Snake Trying' and the name of the poet is 'W.W.E. Ross'.
- (b) 'Him' refers to the snake.
- (c) He is going over the water into the reeds.
- (d) He is of small size and green colour.
- (e) He is of good nature.

STANZA 3

**Along the sand
he lay until observed
and chased away, and now
he vanishes in the ripples
among the green slim reeds.**

Questions:

- (a) Who does 'he' refer to in this stanza?
- (b) Where was he lying?
- (c) When was he chased?
- (d) Where does he vanish?
- (e) Of what colour are the reeds?

Answers:

- (a) 'He' refers to the snake. (b) He was lying on the sand. (c) He was chased when someone observed him. (d) He vanishes in the ripples among the reeds. (e) The reeds are of green colour.

ANALYSIS OF THE SNAKE TRYING

Lines 1–5

The snake trying
to escape the pursuing stick,

(...)
and graceful are his shapes!

'The Snake Trying' by W.W.E. Ross takes readers directly to the place of action. There is an imagery of a snake that is trying to escape a pursuing stick. The absent doer in this case is a reference to humanity as a whole. In this way, by using an implied synecdoche, the poet refers to the person who is holding the stick and disturbing this harmless creature. The description of the snake in the first few lines makes it clear the snake is threatened and it tries to somehow save itself from getting hurt. So, the snake mentioned in the poem can be small or not one of the venomous and aggressive ones. Here, the stick acts as a symbol of cruelty and inhumanity. Moreover, it has a thin and long body. It curves very graciously that pleases the poet. Through this exclamation, "How beautiful/ and graceful are his shapes!" the poet creates a contrast of ideas. Firstly, the imagery was of cruelty. Secondly, the poet refers to the beautiful aspects of this creature.

Lines 6–11

He glides through the water away
from the stroke. O let him go

(...)

he is harmless even to children.

'*The Snake Trying*' by W.W.E. Ross presents how the snake tries to escape from that heartless person's stick. The person attempts to strike the snake to drive sadistic pleasure from its pain. It can also be a reference to the perception of snakes. Generally, people believe snakes are dangerous and mischievous. They can harm a person anytime. It's not true. Even the aggressive snakes such as mambas become confused and threatened when a man approaches nearby. So, it's always better to leave them as they are. A snake doesn't always mean a threat.

Apart from that, the poet requests that person to let it go. The snake is struggling with its full energy to go far from that person anyhow. Just like a child bullied by a group of boys tries to run away to her home, the snake also tries to go to the reeds safely. According to the poet, that small and green snake is even harmless to kids. Moreover, it's also a reference to the similarity between a kid and an innocent snake.

Lines 12–16

Along the sand
he lay until observed

(...)

he vanishes in the ripples

among the green slim reeds.

'*The Snake Trying*' by W.W.E. Ross presents the nature of the snake. The snake lies on the sand in the daytime without hurting anyone. Whenever people find the snake, they chase it away even if it is causing them no harm. Here, the poet introduces two themes, perception vs reality and hypocrisy. Men perceive snakes as harmful creatures but in reality, they aren't. Moreover, it doesn't matter if the snake is causing them any harm or not. They have to chase it away. However, at last, the snake vanishes in the ripples of the water and moves to the reeds. Using "green" and "slim" again this section is a reference to the similarity between the snake and nature. In this way, the poet says that as humans, the snake is also an integral part of nature and the green reeds as well.

Following poetic devices/figures of speech are used in the poem *The Snake Trying*:

1. **Transferred Epithet:** It is an adjective that qualifies a noun. In the poem, the word "*pursuing stick*" refers to the person who is holding the stick and is determined to kill the snake.
2. **Alliteration:** It is the occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words. e.g. "**he is harmless**".
3. **Personification:** It is the attribution of human characteristics to animals and non-living things. e.g. in the poem the poet refers the snake using the pronoun "he" which is used for humans.