



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (2022-23)

QUESTION BANK – A TIGER IN THE ZOO –by Leslie Norris

Class: X

Sub: ENGLISH

**I. 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 that is 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.

**II. MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS**

**1. What does a tiger have on his body?**

- (A) spots  
(B) stripes  
(C) stars  
(D) all of the above

**2. How does the tiger feel in a cage?**

- (A) happy  
(B) contented  
(C) free  
(D) angry

**3. How are the pads of a tiger?**

- (A) Soft like velvet  
(B) rough  
(C) hard  
(D) all of the above

**4. What does the tiger hunt near the water hole?**

- (A) lions  
(B) elephants  
(C) deer  
(D) all of the above

**5. Where should the tiger be snarling?**

- (A) at the jungle's edge  
(B) at the cage's edge

(C) in the cage

(D) all of the above

**6. A tiger is happy when.....**

(A) he is in the cage

(B) he is near the cage

(C) he frightens the visitors

**(D) he is free in the forest**

**7. What is the tiger's attitude towards visitors?**

(A) loving

(B) hating

**(C) ignoring**

(D) threatening

**8. What is patrolling at night?**

(A) cars

(B) tigers

(C) deer

(D) all of the above

**9. How are the eyes of the tiger?**

(A) dull

**(B) brilliant**

(C) sleepy

(D) sad

**10. What is 'brilliant' in the poem 'Tiger in the Zoo'?**

(A) the tiger's eyes

(B) the stars

**(C) both (A) and (B)**

(D) none of the above

**III. Read the extracts and answer the questions that follow.**

1. "*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?

He refers to the Tiger.

(b) Where is he?

He is in a small cage.

(c) Where and how is he walking?

He walks in his cage slowly and quietly with firm strides in a proud manner.

(d) In which mood is he? Why?

He is angry because instead of moving freely in the forest, he is confined to a small cage.

2. "*He should be lurking in shadow,*

*Sliding through long grass*

*Near the waterhole*

*Where plump deer pass*".

(a) Where is the tiger hiding?

He is hiding in a shadowy dark place in the long grass.

(b) Who is going to be his prey?

A fat deer that will come that way to drink water is going to be his prey.

(c) Why should he be lurking in shadow?

He should be lurking in shadow to attack the deer that comes to drink water at the waterhole.

(d) What is the rhyme scheme of these lines?

a b c b.

4. ***“He should be snarling around houses***

***At the jungle’s edge,  
Baring his white fangs, his claws,  
Terrorising the village!”***

(a) What does the poet try to suggest through these lines?

The poet is trying to suggest that the tiger should be allowed to live in his natural habitat.

(b) How does the tiger scare the people?

The tiger scares the people by growling at them and showing his teeth and claws.

(c) Why does ‘he’ snarl?

‘He’ snarls to show his anger and helplessness.

(d) How does ‘he’ show his presence?

‘He’ shows his presence by baring his white teeth and claws.

5. ***“But he’s locked in a concrete  
cell, His strength behind bars,  
Stalking the length of his cage,  
Ignoring visitors.”***

(a) (a) What does the phrase ‘his strength behind the bar’ suggest?

It means that he is helpless as he is locked in a cage.

(b) Why does the tiger ignore the visitors?

The tiger ignores the visitors because he considers them devoid of feelings as none of them tries to help him out of the prison.

(c) What is the tiger doing in the cage?

The tiger is moving slowly and quietly along the length of the cage.

(d) What does the expression ‘stalking the length of the cage’ imply?

It implies walking to and fro in helplessness.

6. ***“He hears the last voice at night,  
The patrolling cars,  
And stares  
With his brilliant eyes  
At the brilliant stars.”***

(a) What kind of voices does the tiger hear?

The tiger hears the voice coming from the patrolling cars at night.

(b) Where does the tiger look at in the night?

The tiger looks at the brilliant stars shining in the sky at the night.

(c) What do you mean by 'patrolling'?

'Patrolling' means to go around an area at regular times to check that it is safe.

(d) What is the effect of the repeated use of the word 'brilliant'?

The repeated use of brilliant shows the contrast. The brilliant stars are free while the brilliant eyes are inside the cage.

#### **IV. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:**

**1. What do you understand by 'His strength behind bars'? What kind of a cage is he locked in?**

The tiger is wretched in its cage. His power is confined behind the bars. He was locked in a small cage where he is devoid of freedom. He feels unhappy, frustrated, restless and angry.

**2. The tiger in the poem 'A Tiger in the Zoo' has some obvious limitations, describe them in contrast to its natural habitat.**

The tiger in the zoo was confined to a small space. He was angry that he couldn't be free to move, hunt and do what he pleased forced to be a showpiece; and the cage's bars obstructed his view of the starry night. This was all unlike his natural habitat where he hunted fiercely and slept peacefully.

**3. How does the poet contrast the tiger in the cage with the tiger in the forest?**

The poet says that the caged tiger is imprisoned. He is not free. He is angry. On the other hand, the tiger in the jungle is free. He walks in the tall grass and hunts the deer that pass near the water hole.

**4. What does the poet convey through the poem?**

The poet tries to expose the miserable life led by the animals in the zoo and its desire to remain free. He compares the life of the tiger in the zoo with its life in the natural habitat. The animals have the right to freedom and should not be caged. They should be allowed to run free in the wild.

#### **V. Answer the following question in 100-120 words:**

**1. Love for freedom is the natural instinct of every living being. Comment with reference to the poem 'A Tiger in the Zoo'.**

**Ans.** It is rightly said that love for freedom is the natural instinct of every living being. Everyone loves freedom and does not want to live in confinement. Similarly, the tiger in the poem 'A Tiger in the Zoo' also longed for freedom. He was so fed up being caged that he even ignored the visitors. He took to and fro steps in the cage as if trying to while away the time. The tiger wanted to escape from this captivity.

God has made all living beings equally and thus, the animals too have the right to freedom. They

should not be caged. It is their right to enjoy their natural habitat that is the forest and run freely in the wild. Thus, we should, respect their freedom and should not confine them in the zoo.

**2. Animals, big and small, is being used by humans for their selfish ends? What is your opinion regarding the exploitation of animals? Mention some examples that you can see a possible solution to this problem.**

**Ans.** It is true that animals, big and small are being used by humans for their selfish ends. We use them for our own benefits. Animals are killed, poached and captured for commercial benefits. Humans have encroached on their space and sheltered them in zoos which are truly inhuman. In the poem, the poet has shown the plight of a tiger. He is captured and confined in a small cage. He is frustrated, angry and restless. It longs for freedom. Confinement brings bondage and bondage is cruelty.

Every day we see many animals suffering due to humans. Monkeys and bear captured and made to dance on roads, Elephants are chained and forced to lift heavy loads. Many animals are sheltered in zoos for the entertainment of human beings. They are kept in poor conditions. We should learn to respect nature and its inhabitants. After all, these animals too need to share the earth with us.

**3. Some animals are becoming extinct; the tiger is one such animal. What do you think could be the reason? Should this decrease in number be stopped? Why?**

**Ans.** The primary threats to the survival of tigers are poaching and habitat loss due to intensive development. The Tigers are getting extinct. The Tigers are on the list of endangered species and the reason behind it is human interference. Humans hunt tigers for their commercial benefits. The loss of habitats also leads to a reduction in prey animals, so the area can support fewer tigers. Moreover, tigers are poached for trophies such as teeth and fur and for traditional medicines. The growing population clears the forest areas to make them agricultural land for food. This creates a problem of the tiger's habitat. Tigers are the backbone of food web and forest and hence should be protected.