



Summary of the Poem

The poet says that the fog which is generally seen during the winter season is coming towards the city and the harbour just like a cat. This means that it is approaching the city in a very silent manner so that no one can notice its arrival. He has compared its arrival to that of a cat because a cat always enters a place silently. Next, he says that the fog has covered the whole of the city and harbour and it appears as if it is sitting by folding its legs and looking around just the way a cat does when it sits on its haunches and looks around. In the end, he describes the departure of the fog which very silently and unpredictably, again, similar to the departure of the cat, vanishes.

Literary devices:

Metaphor: Fog is compared to cat (On little cat feet)

Rhyme scheme: There is no rhyme scheme followed. Poem is in free verse

Enjambment: When a sentence continues to the next line (It sits looking..... then moves on)

Personification: fog has been personified – Fog comes, it sits

Reference to context questions:

Read the stanza given below and answer the questions that follow:

It sits looking
over harbour and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on

(a) Who is 'it' here? What is 'it' being compared to?

Here 'it' refers to the Fog. It is being compared to a cat.

(b) How does it cover the city?

The fog spreads over the harbour and city on silent haunches like a cat.

Short Answer Questions:

1. Does the poet actually say that the fog is like a cat?

The poet compares fog to a cat. A cat comes without making any noise and goes away. In the same way, the fog comes and spreads slowly and silently over the harbour and the city.

2. How does the poet make the fog like a living creature?

The poet uses a metaphor to describe the fog. The fog comes down like a cat so smoothly and silently. The movement of the fog is similar to that of a cat.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS:

1. ‘Nothing lasts forever’. How far does the poem ‘Fog’ depict this idiom?

The fog in the poem makes a silent, but all-pervasive entry into the scene. It gives no indication of its temporary nature, at this stage. Its silent arrival, as if on cat feet, doesn't indicate its onward spread. It seems to be surrounding the entire countryside like a child sitting on its haunches, indicating a mysterious aura without exposing its next move. The reader anticipates some dramatic outcome of this all-pervasive presence from the harbour, right down to the city. In the final outcome, the fog makes a silent exit, as secretly as its arrival. The entire drama seems to suggest that even in the most engulfing of circumstances, is but temporary in nature.