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Class 10 English (First Flight) Notes

The Tale of Custard the Dragon



Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

Poem – The tale of Custard The Dragon

Type I Comprehension Passage (Solved)

Now the name of the little black kitten was Ink and the little grey mouse, we called him blink And the little yellow dog was sharp and Mustard. But the dragon was a coward, and she called him custard.

- (a) Name the poem and the poet.
- (b) Who are Ink, Blink, Mustard and Custard?
- (c) Who is 'she' in these lines?

(d) Identify the rhyme scheme of the passage.

Answers

(a) Poem – The Tale of custard the Dragon.

Poet – Ogden Nash.

(b) They are Belinda's pets.

(c) 'She' is Belinda.

(d) Rhyme Scheme is – aabb.

Unsolved Passages for Practice

Passage-1

Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears,
And Ink and Blink chased lions down the stairs.
Mustard was as brave as tiger in a rage.
But custard cried for a nice safe cage.

(a) What is Belinda's bravery compared to?

(b) "Ink and Blink chased lions" What does this line imply?

(c) Why did custard cry for a cage?

(d) Pick the line which is an example of simile.

Passage-2

Pistol in his left hand, pistol in his right
And he held in his teeth a cutlass bright
His beard was black, one leg was wood,
It was clear that the pirate meant no good.

(a) Who does 'his' refer to in the above lines?

(b) Describe his appearance.

(c) What does "meant no good" mean here?

(d) Mention the rhyme scheme of the passage.

Passage-3

Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon
With a clatter and a clank and a jangling squirm
He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm.

- (a) Who clashed his tail?
- (b) "Clatter" and "clank"—what kind of sounds are these?
- (c) What did he do to the pirate?
- (d) "Like a robin at a worm" – mention the figure of speech.

Passage - 4

Belinda embraced him, Mustard licked him
No one mourned for his pirate victim
Ink and Blink in glee did gyrate
Around the dragon that ate the pirate.

- (a) Whom did Belinda embrace?
- (b) Why was everyone happy?
- (c) What did Ink and Blink do?
- (d) Why is the pirate called the victim here?

Type-II Short Answer Questions (Solved)

- 1. Where did Belinda live and with whom?

Ans. Belinda lived in a little white house with her pets – a mouse, a kitten, a dog and a dragon.

- 2. Was everyone really brave as they claimed? Who was actually the bravest?

Ans. No, they were not so brave as they pretended themselves to be. Custard, the dragon was the bravest of them all for he killed the pirate.

Questions for Practice

1. The poet has employed many poetic devices in this poem. Pick out examples of simile, metaphor and poetic license from the poem.
2. How can you call the poem 'The tale of custard the Dragon' to be a ballad?
3. What message is being conveyed in this poem? (Refer to Belinda's and her pets' bravery and custard's cowardice)
4. "Custard trued for a nice safe cage." Does this line match his physical appearance? Give reasons.

