

**First Flight Poetry Chapter 4 How to tell wild animals****Thinking about the Poem (Page 45)****Question 1: Does 'dyin' really rhyme with 'lion'? Can you say it in such a way that it does?**

Answer: No, 'dyin' does not rhyme with 'lion'. If we pronounce the word 'lion' as 'lying', then probably it would rhyme with the word 'dyin'.

**Question 2: How does the poet suggest that you identify the lion and the tiger? When can you do so, according to him?**

Answer: The poet says that the Asian Lion is the big, tawny animal that prowls across the eastern jungle and roars at us. The Bengal Tiger, on the other hand, is a magnificent wild animal with black stripes on a golden coat that is free to explore the forest. The poet also notes that, in contrast to tigers, lions typically scream loudly as they attack their prey.

**Question 3: Do you think the words 'lept' and 'lep' in the third stanza are spelt correctly? Why does the poet spell them like this?**

Answer: The poem uses the wrong spellings for the words "lept" and "lep." They have been spelled by the poet in a way that preserves the poem's rhythm. The correct way to spell the words "lept" and "lep" is "leaped." The word "leopard" is highlighted in each line because the poet purposefully spelled them incorrectly to add humor.

**Question 4: Do you know what a 'bearhug' is? It's a friendly and strong hug — such as bears are thought to give, as they attack you! Again, hyenas are thought to laugh, and crocodiles to weep ('crocodile tears') as they swallow their victims. Are there similar expressions and popular ideas about wild animals in your own language(s)?**

Answer: A bear's tight, close embrace with both hands while it attacks its prey is referred to as a "bearhug." A hyena never laughs, but its face has that expression, and crocodiles never cry, but they do so when they swallow their prey or victims. Other animals also exhibit similar facial expressions.

**Question 5: Look at the line "A novice might nonplus". How would you write this 'correctly'? Why is the poet's 'incorrect' line better in the poem?**

Answer: It is okay to write "A novice might be nonplussed" instead of "A novice might nonplus." However, because it serves to keep the poem's rhyme pattern intact, the wrong line's use fits the poem. It rhymes with "thus" because the word "nonplus" is used incorrectly.

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**Question 6: Can you find other examples of poets taking liberties with language, either in English or in your own language(s)? Can you find examples of humorous poems in your own language(s)?**

Answer: Yes, there are many situations where poets improvise with the wording to ensure that the poetry rhymes well. This is frequently known as "poetic licence." For instance, Ogden Nash's poem "Tale of Custard the Dragon" uses realio and trulio instead of really and genuinely to achieve a rhythmic effect. Following are the lines:

Belinda lived in a little white house,  
With a little black kitten and a little grey mouse,  
And a little yellow dog and a little red wagon,  
And a realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

**Question 7: Much of the humour in the poem arises from the way language is used, although the ideas are funny as well. If there are particular lines in the poem that you especially like, share these with the class, speaking briefly about what it is about the ideas or the language that you like or find funny.**

Answer: The language used by the poet in the poem is quite straightforward and lighthearted. The poem contains some hilarious lines, such as "A noble wild beast meets you." Even while it seems like the wild animal could welcome you in the statement, it is actually highly absurd and unlikely that a dangerous animal like a tiger would do that. He'll only lep and lep again is a very funny remark in another situation. The word "lep" is used in the poem to add humour and to keep the rhyme scheme of the word "leopard."