

### A Baker from Goa

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Elders often think fondly of good Portuguese days and their famous loaves of bread.</li> <li>2. The age-old furnaces still bake those breads.</li> <li>3. The thud and jingle of the baker's bamboo announcing his arrival can still be heard in some places.</li> <li>4. Even today, these bakers are known as Pader in Goa.</li> <li>5. The children ran to meet and greet him.</li> <li>6. They longed for bread-bangles and sweet bread of special make.</li> <li>7. Marriage gifts were meaningless without the sweet bread known as the 'bor.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. The lady of the house Must prepare sandwiches on the occasion of her daughter's engagement.</li> <li>9. Cakes and 'bolinhas' are a must for Christmas and other festivals.</li> <li>10. The presence of the baker's furnace in the village is absolutely essential.</li> <li>11. The bakers in old days used to wear a dress known as the kabai.</li> <li>12. Baking was quite a profitable profession in the old days.</li> <li>13. The baker and his family always looked happy and prosperous.</li> </ol> |
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### Coorg

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coorg is situated between Mysore and the coastal town of Mangalore.</li> <li>2. It is called the land of rolling hills.</li> <li>3. It is inhabited by a proud race of martial men, beautiful women and wild creatures.</li> <li>4. It is the smallest district of Karnataka.</li> <li>5. Coorgi is the home of evergreen forests, spices and coffee plantations.</li> <li>6. September to March is the most pleasant season for the tourists.</li> <li>7. During this period, weather is perfect and the air breathes of coffee.</li> <li>8. The people of Coorg are fiercely independent people.</li> <li>9. They are possibly of Greek or Arabic origin.</li> <li>10. It is said that a part of Alexander's army settled there and mixed amongst the locals.</li> <li>11. Their long black coat with an embroidered waist-belt Kuppia resembles the kuffa worn by the Arabs.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. Coorgi homes are known for their hospitality.</li> <li>13. The Coorg Regiment is one of the most decorated in the Indian Army.</li> <li>14. The first Chief of the Indian Army, General Cariappa, was a Coorgi.</li> <li>15. The river, Kaveri, obtains its water from the hills and forests of Coorg.</li> <li>16. High energy adventures with river rafting, canoeing, rock climbing and mountain biking are quite popular in Coorg.</li> <li>17. Birds, bees, butterflies, Malabar squirrels and langurs find shelter in the rainforests of Coorg.</li> <li>18. The top of the Brahmagiri hills gives you a panoramic view of the misty valley of Coorg.</li> <li>19. India's largest Tibetan settlement at Bylakuppe is famous for its Buddhist monks and temple.</li> </ol> |
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### Tea From Assam

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tea is really a very popular beverage in India.</li> <li>2. You can hear vendor shouting "Decibar chai" at every railway station.</li> <li>3. More than eighty crores of cups of tea are drunk everyday throughout the world.</li> <li>4. It was green, green everywhere and Rajvir had never seen so much greenery before.</li> <li>5. The landscape changed and tea bushes took the place of green paddy fields.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. A sea of tea-bushes stretched as far as the eyes could go.</li> <li>7. Assam has the largest concentration of plantations in the world.</li> <li>8. No one really knows who discovered tea.</li> <li>9. One Chinese legend says that a few leaves of the twigs burning under the pot fell into the boiling water.</li> <li>10. The leaves gave it a delicious flavour. They were tea leaves.</li> </ol> |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Words like Thai' and `Chine are from Chinese language.</li> <li>12. According to an Indian legend, an ancient Buddhist ascetic cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditation.</li> <li>13. Ten tea plants grew out of his eyelids.</li> <li>14. Rajvir saw acre upon acre of tea bushes and nearly all of them were neatly pruned to the same height.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. Groups of tea-pickers with bamboo baskets on their backs were plucking newly sprouted leaves.</li> <li>16. A tractor was pulling a trailer-load of leaves.</li> <li>17. Rajvir asked Pranjol's father if it was the second-flush or sprouting period.</li> <li>18. The sprouting periods lasts from May to July and this period yields the best tea.</li> </ol> |
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### Madam Rides the Bus

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Valli was an eight-year-old girl.</li> <li>2. The most fascinating thing for her was the bus that travelled between her village and the nearest town.</li> <li>3. She wanted to ride the bus.</li> <li>4. She made an elaborate planning and saved sixty paise — the both ways fare of the bus.</li> <li>5. The bus conductor stretched out his hand to help her up but Valli could get on by herself.</li> <li>6. The conductor was fond of joking and called her 'madam'.</li> <li>7. The bus started with a roar and Valli was constantly looking outside.</li> <li>8. The conductor asked her to sit down as she had paid for her seat.</li> <li>9. She took her seat and an elderly woman sat beside her.</li> <li>10. The old woman was very repulsive and the smell of the betel she was chewing offended Valli.</li> <li>11. The old woman asked why Valli was travelling alone.</li> <li>12. Valli asked her not to bother about her.</li> <li>13. Suddenly, a young cow came running very fast in the middle of the road.</li> <li>14. The driver sounded his horn loudly but the more he honked, the more frightened the animal would become.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. Valli laughed at the scene until tears came in her eyes.</li> <li>16. Her destination had come. The driver asked Valli to get off the bus.</li> <li>17. Valli handed thirty paise coins to the driver and told him that she was going back on the same bus.</li> <li>18. The conductor was surprised. He offered a free cold drink to her.</li> <li>19. Valli firmly, but politely, rejected the offer.</li> <li>20. He asked if her mother wouldn't be looking for her.</li> <li>21. On her return journey, she saw the same cow lying dead by the side of the road.</li> <li>22. The memory of the dead cow haunted her and she was no longer looking outside.</li> <li>23. She reached her village at 3.40 p.m.</li> <li>24. She wished and hoped to see the driver again.</li> <li>25. She found her mother awake and talking to one of her aunts.</li> <li>26. Her aunt was a chatterbox.</li> <li>27. Valli agreed that many things were happening outside without their knowledge.</li> </ol> |
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### The Sermon at Benares

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gautama Buddha was born as a prince. He was named Siddhartha Gautama.</li> <li>2. He was married at the age of sixteen and enjoyed the royal luxuries for ten years.</li> <li>3. He had a son. Up to the age of twenty-five, he was shielded from the sufferings of the world.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. The sight of a sick man, then an aged man, and a funeral procession shocked him.</li> <li>5. Finally, he saw a monk begging for alms.</li> <li>6. He gave up royal pleasures and set out to seek enlightenment.</li> <li>7. He wandered for seven years and finally sat down under a big tree in meditation.</li> </ol> |
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| <p>8. Enlightenment came to him after seven days.</p> <p>9. He named the big tree the Bodhi Tree or Tree of Wisdom.</p> <p>10. He was known as the Buddha or the Awakened or the Enlightened one.</p> <p>11. The Buddha preached his first sermon at the holy city of Benares on the River Ganges.</p> <p>12. Kisa Gotami's only son had died.</p> <p>13. She had lost her senses and carried the dead boy to all her neighbours.</p> <p>14. She asked them for medicines to cure him.</p> <p>15. She prayed the Buddha to give such a medicine that night to cure her son.</p> <p>16. The Buddha asked Kisa Gotami to bring a handful of mustard seeds.</p> | <p>17. She went from house to house and had no problem in getting a handful of mustard seeds.</p> <p>18. However, she did have a problem in finding a house where no one had died.</p> <p>19. She considered the fate of men and realised that she was selfish in grief.</p> <p>20. Death is common to all.</p> <p>21. Surrendering all selfishness leads to immortality.</p> <p>22. All earthen pots end in being broken.</p> <p>23. The world is afflicted with death and decay.</p> <p>24. He who has overcome all sorrows, will become blessed and enlightened one.</p> |
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### The Proposal

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| <p>1. Lomov and Chubukov are both neighbours and landlords.</p> <p>2. Lomov comes to Chubukov with a proposal of marriage with Chubukov's daughter Natalya.</p> <p>3. Lomov is 35 and wants to lead a peaceful married life.</p> <p>4. He thinks that Natalya is an excellent housekeeper, and not bad looking.</p> <p>5. He is excited and forgets the purpose of his visit.</p> <p>6. He starts quarrelling with her over Oxen Meadows.</p> <p>7. Natalya opposes Lomov and claims that Oxen Meadows belong to them.</p> <p>8. Lomov is ready to show the documents to prove his ownership of Oxen Meadows.</p> <p>9. He is ready to make Oxen Meadows a present to her.</p> <p>10. Chubukov enters and adds fuel to the fire.</p> <p>11. Chubukov sides with his daughter Natalya.</p> <p>12. Lomov threatens to go to the court.</p> <p>13. They quarrel and indulge in abusing and insulting each other.</p> | <p>14. Natalya comes to know that Lomov has come there with a proposal of marriage.</p> <p>15. She blames her father for not telling her about it before.</p> <p>16. She threatens to die if Chubukov doesn't bring Lomov back.</p> <p>17. Lomov returns and now they pick up a new quarrel over their dogs.</p> <p>18. Natalya says that her dog squeezer is far superior to Lomov's dog Guess.</p> <p>19. Lomov is excited and his palpitations start rising.</p> <p>20. He falls down in the armchair and loses his consciousness.</p> <p>21. Chubukov is confused and threatens to cut his throat or shot himself.</p> <p>22. Chubukov doesn't want to miss this opportunity.</p> <p>23. He makes them embrace and kiss each other.</p> <p>24. Chubukov blesses them a happy married life.</p> |
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**Dust of Snow**

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is a winter's day.</li> <li>2. The treetops were covered with masses of snowflakes.</li> <li>3. The poet was walking under one such snow-covered tree.</li> <li>4. This tree was a hemlock tree, a conifer associated with poisonous qualities.</li> <li>5. A crow alighted on the hemlock tree suddenly.</li> <li>6. The sudden movement of the crow, the mass of snowflakes started falling down the tree.</li> <li>7. The snowflakes fell down upon the poet who was standing under the tree.</li> <li>8. The mass of snowflakes was so light and fine that it looked like the dust of white snow.</li> <li>9. The sudden movement and arrival of the crow and the falling of the flakes of snow look like just ordinary happenings.</li> <li>10. But the falling of fine snowflakes on the poet leaves a tremendous effect on him.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Before this, the poet was in a gloomy or despairing mood.</li> <li>12. However, this simple beautiful act of nature has a very comforting effect on him.</li> <li>13. The fall of snow over him changes his mood and mental state.</li> <li>14. It gladdens his heart.</li> <li>15. Before this incident, that particular day was not going too well for him.</li> <li>16. He had decided in his mind that day would go waste.</li> <li>17. However, the fall of snowy flakes on him makes him realise that the whole day has not been wasted.</li> <li>18. At least, this part of the day when he is enjoying the snowflakes, has been saved.</li> <li>19. At least, some part of the day has been pleasant.</li> <li>20. If he had not experienced such a pleasant experience, he would have regretted at the wastage of the whole day.</li> </ol> |
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**Fire and Ice**

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The poet feels that this world of ours will come to an end.</li> <li>2. He is not very clear when the end will come.</li> <li>3. He comes to this conclusion on the basis of what people say on this subject.</li> <li>4. He seems to show his agreement at what people say regarding the ending of the world.</li> <li>5. On the basis of what people think, the poet believes that this world will come to an end by the two highly contrasting but powerful elements of nature — fire and ice.</li> <li>6. Either fire or ice or both will be the cause of the ending of the world.</li> <li>7. Then the poet links these two powerful natural elements to human beings and their emotions.</li> <li>8. In the first stanza, the poet shows his agreement with those who believe that fire will cause the end of the world.</li> <li>9. He links the element of fire to human emotion of desire or passions.</li> <li>10. Uncontrolled fire of passion and desire may lead us to the end of this world.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Then, the poet comes to the second alternative that can cause the end of this world.</li> <li>12. It is the 'ice' which can also cause the end of the world.</li> <li>13. In terms of human emotion, ice means 'hate' created by 'cold reasoning'.</li> <li>14. Cool and calculated icy reasoning can lead to hate and can be the cause of the end of this world.</li> <li>15. The poet himself has experienced both these primal emotions of love as well as hate, fire as well as ice, passions as well as cold reason.</li> <li>16. He has experienced enough of hate which is born out of icy cold reasoning.</li> <li>17. In the end, Frost agrees that it doesn't matter whether it is fire or ice, both can cause the end of the world.</li> <li>18. 'Ice' or 'hate' born out of cold reasoning is quite sufficient for causing the end of the world.</li> </ol> |
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### A Tiger in the Zoo

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The tiger is not in his natural habitat.</li> <li>2. The wilds or the jungle is the natural habitat of the tiger.</li> <li>3. Unfortunately, the denizen of the forest, has been confined to a caged habitat in a zoo.</li> <li>4. He is no more free to roam about in the forest but walks within the length and breadth of his cage.</li> <li>5. He has dark spots on his skin which are clearly visible even from a distance.</li> <li>6. Condemned to live in his cage, he walks around quietly with his velvety soft feet.</li> <li>7. He is angry but has to suppress it.</li> <li>8. In his quiet rage, he continues walking up and down his caged habitat.</li> <li>9. The poet imagines how the tiger should behave if he is in his natural habitat — the wild jungle.</li> <li>10. There, he should be silently hiding himself in the shadow remains unnoticed.</li> <li>11. Sliding through the long grass he should move stealthily to ambush his prey.</li> <li>12. He knows where he can find his kill in the wild.</li> <li>13. His favourite hunt is the plump deer which he can find near the water-hole.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14. Sometimes, he comes out of the forest and strays in human settlement at the edge of the jungle.</li> <li>15. There he terrorises the villagers by opening out his white fangs or the long teeth and the claws.</li> <li>16. His ferocious looks frighten the villagers.</li> <li>17. However, he has no intention of entering the village and .killing anybody till he is highly provoked.</li> <li>18. Unfortunately, the mighty tiger is cursed to live in a concrete cell in the zoo.</li> <li>19. Many visitors come to see him in the zoo but he doesn't like the stares of the visitors.</li> <li>20. He simply ignores their presence.</li> <li>21. Now, he is made to limit his movements only to the length and breadth of his caged habitat.</li> <li>22. The tiger keeps awake till late in the night.</li> <li>23. He hears the noise of the patrolling cars moving around in the zoo.</li> <li>24. The brilliant stars shine in the sky and his brilliant eyes shines in the night.</li> <li>25. He can't free himself but he keeps on watching the brilliant stars standing behind the bars of his caged habitat.</li> </ol> |
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### How to Tell Wild Animals

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Asiatic lion is a grand and majestic wild beast.</li> <li>2. It is found in the jungles of the eastern countries of Asia.</li> <li>3. It is a huge yellowish coloured beast.</li> <li>4. It roars terribly loud and its loud roar can Terrify you to death.</li> <li>5. If you meet such a ferocious and powerful animal, you must be sure that he is the Asian Lion.</li> <li>6. The Bengal Tiger is a noble wild beast.</li> <li>7. The tiger has black stripes all over his yellowish hide.</li> <li>8. The moment you see him, he will not spare but eat you at once.</li> <li>9. When you are strolling forth a forest, you can find a beast.</li> <li>10. He is the leopard.</li> <li>11. His hide is peppered with spots.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. There is no escape from him even if you cry in pain.</li> <li>13. He will continue pouncing on you and eat you to death.</li> <li>14. If you are walking in your yard, you can be face to face with a bear.</li> <li>15. The bear hugs you very hard.</li> <li>16. His hug is not friendly.</li> <li>17. He may press you so hard that his hug may bring your death.</li> <li>18. An inexperienced person can't distinguish beasts Of prey.</li> <li>19. He will not be able to distinguish a hyena from a crocodile.</li> <li>20. Hyenas and crocodiles have very deceptive appearances.</li> <li>21. Hyenas smile merrily before attacking and killing their victims.</li> <li>22. Crocodiles pretend to be weeping before pouncing upon their prey and killing them.</li> </ol> |
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23. A true Chameleon is a small animal like a lizard.
24. He has no ears at all.

25. Neither has he a single wing.
26. If you see such a creature on a tree, then you are seeing a chameleon.

### The Ball Poem

1. The young boy lost his ball.
2. He was playing and saw the ball bouncing down the street.
3. Then, in the end the ball fell down into the water and lost forever.
4. The boy sees everything happening before his eyes but he is helpless.
5. He only stands there helplessly moaning at the loss of the ball.
6. The loss of the ball may appear to be an ordinary incident.
7. It seems that boys lose such balls many times while they are playing.
8. The boy should not make a fuss over it.
9. The loss of ball is symbolic. It has a deeper meaning.
10. The loss of the ball is the loss of childhood and the loss of his dreams. And if it is lost, it never comes back again.

11. Similarly, we can't console the child that he can have another ball.
12. Actually, he is sad that the ball he has lost can't be brought back.
13. The innocent childhood that he has lost can't be replaced or bought back with money.
14. Wealth can't buy life and time.
15. Ultimately, a change comes in the grieving boy.
16. He comes to know that losing is a part of life.
17. The loss must not break his spirits.
18. There is no use of grieving over what has been lost.
19. He must stand up to face such losses with courage and determination.
20. Life has to be lived and not wasted in grieving and mourning over the losses suffered in the past.

### Amanda

1. The little girl Amanda is biting her nails.
2. Her mother asks her not to do it.
3. Amanda is putting her shoulders down to one side.
4. Her mother asks her to lift up her shoulders and adopt the right posture.
5. Amanda seems to be stooping on one side.
6. Her mother asks her to sit up straight.
7. Amanda doesn't bother what her mother says.
8. She is lost in a world of dreams and fantasy.
9. She imagines herself as a mermaid.
10. She lives in a peaceful emerald sea all alone.
11. She is moving all around freely and blissfully like a mermaid.
12. Amanda's mother asks if she has finished her homework.
13. She asks if she has made her room tidy and clean.
14. Amanda's mother reminds her that she instructed her to clean her shoes and she hasn't done so.

15. Amanda doesn't care a bit what her mother says to her.
16. She is again in the world of dreams and fantasy.
17. She prefers to be an orphan than living such a life.
18. She wants to roam around the streets freely and aimlessly.
19. She wants to walk on the soft dust with her bare feet.
20. The pressing of the feet will create designs on the soft dust.
21. She loves silence, and freedom is the sweetest thing that she values in her life.
22. Again, Amanda's mother stops her from eating chocolate.
23. She must remember that eating chocolate might cause her some problem.
24. Her mother reminds her to observe good manners.
25. She must not look the other way when her mother is speaking to her.
26. Again, Amanda ignores her mother.



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| <p>27. She imagines herself as Rapunzel living in a tower where there is a reign of peace and tranquillity.</p> <p>28. Amanda is proud of her beautiful hair and would not let them down like Rapunzel.</p> | <p>29. Amanda's mother calls her moody.</p> <p>30. She asks her to stop being sulky and unhappy at once.</p> <p>31. If she remains unhappy, people will think that her mother has been nagging her.</p> |
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### The Trees

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| <p>1. The trees are coming out of their artificial glasshouses.</p> <p>2. They are moving out into their natural habitat — the forest.</p> <p>3. The trees are metaphors of nature itself.</p> <p>4. Without trees forests have become empty.</p> <p>5. No trees are left in the forest where birds can perch themselves on their tops.</p> <p>6. Even insects have lost the places where they could hide themselves in.</p> <p>7. The poetess is hopeful that the forest, will be full of trees 'by morning.'</p> <p>8. To free themselves, the roots continue working all night.</p> | <p>9. They struggle to come out from the cracks in the veranda floor.</p> <p>10. Small twigs become tough and branches move their positions under the roof.</p> <p>11. The night is fresh. The moon is shining and the smell of leaves and lichen is spreading out into the rooms.</p> <p>12. The poet is sitting inside but the struggle of the roots, leaves and branches continues to free themselves.</p> <p>13. The struggling trees have come out breaking the glasshouse and are marching towards the forest victoriously.</p> |
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### Fog

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| <p>1. The poet gives a powerful image of fog through a metaphorical cat.</p> <p>2. The fog turns into a cat and the cat morphs back into the fog.</p> <p>3. Fog comes silently and spreads all around.</p> | <p>4. It comes silently as a cat comes stalking.</p> <p>5. It engulfs everything in it and looks over the harbour and the city.</p> <p>6. It continues sitting silently on its haunches like a cat and then moves on.</p> |
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### The Tale of Custard the Dragon

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| <p>1. Belinda lived in a little white house.</p> <p>2. She lived there with her pets.</p> <p>3. Her pets contained a black kitten, Ink, a grey mouse, Blink, a yellow dog, Mustard and a dragon named Custard.</p> <p>4. All other pets were considered sharp and brave.</p> <p>5. Only Custard was considered as a coward who always 'cried for a nice safe cage.'</p> <p>6. The dragon had sharp teeth. There were spikes on top and scales beneath him. He spat fire and had daggers on his toes.</p> <p>7. Belinda and her pets mocked Custard for his timidity.</p> <p>8. Suddenly, they saw a pirate climbing up through the window.</p> <p>9. The pirate had a pistol in each hand and a dagger in his mouth.</p> | <p>10. His beard was black and one of legs was of wood.</p> <p>11. Belinda turned pale on seeing the pirate and cried for help.</p> <p>12. The dog Mustard fled crying. Ink hid himself and the little mouse Blink disappeared in the mousehole.</p> <p>13. But Custard jumped up at the pirate attacking him with his iron tail:</p> <p>14. He pounced upon the pirate, killed and swallowed him within no time.</p> <p>15. Belinda embraced Custard. Mustard licked him. Ink and Blink danced around him.</p> <p>16. Then, everyone started bragging again of his bravery forgetting the bravery shown by Custard.</p> <p>17. Custard agreed that everybody was braver than him.</p> |
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18. Belinda is still considered as brave as 'a barrel full of bears'. All her pets, except Custard, are considered sharp and brave.

19. Only Custard is mocked at for his timidity and lack of courage.

### For Anne Gregory

1. The poem is addressed to a young and beautiful lady named Anne Gregory.
2. Her hair is honey-coloured or blonde.
3. Every young man loves Anne just because of her beautiful hair.
4. Her hair falling on her ears look like the ramparts surrounding a castle.
5. The poet says that no one would love Anne Gregory for 'herself alone'.
6. No one cares for her inner beauty or the nobility of her soul.
7. Her outwardly appearance and her yellow hair are the only causes for her attraction.
8. In the second stanza, the lady, Anne Gregory herself settles the issue.
9. She says that she is free to choose what colour she uses to dye her hair.
10. She can dye her hair brown or black or of the colour of a carrot.

11. Any young man should fall in love with her only after judging her merits.
12. Her yellow hair or outwardly appearance should not make any young man to sigh for her in despair.
13. She should be loved for 'herself alone'.
14. In the last stanza, the poet resolves the issue.
15. The poet quotes a religious text.
16. It is beyond human beings not to be attracted by physical appearance or beauty.
17. Human beings can be easily swayed by beautiful yellow hair or outwardly appearance.
18. Only God has the ability to withstand the temptations of physical beauty.
19. Men, without God's strength, simply can't look beyond physical appearances.

