



Grade IX

Lesson 9 : The Snake Trying

- W.W.E. Ross

Poetry

Soul of the poem

Most of us think that snakes are always poisonous. They are fearsome and symbol of death. The poet does not find all the snakes fearsome and poisonous. He finds beauty in them. In this poem, the poet describes how a snake tries to escape from a stroke. He wishes that the snake does not get hurt and reaches his destination safely.

A small green snake was lying on the sand when someone noticed it. It was a harmless snake. Someone saw it and ran after it with a stick. The snake glided away through the water. It finally vanished in the ripples among the green slim reeds.

NCERT Questions

Thinking About the Poem

I. 1. What is the snake trying to escape from?

The snake is trying to escape from a strike. It is being chased by someone with a stick. The snake wanted to save itself from being hit or killed.

2. Is it a harmful snake? What is its colour?

No, it is not a harmful snake. It is not poisonous. It is a green snake. Green snakes are generally considered harmless.



3. The poet finds the snake beautiful. Find the words he uses to convey its beauty.

The poet finds the snake beautiful and graceful. The poet conveys its beauty by using the following words: curving of thin long body, beautiful, graceful shapes, small and green.

4. What does the poet wish for the snake?

The poet sees beauty in the snake. For him, it is not a harmful snake. He wishes that it should not be hurt by the stick. It should go under the water into the reeds to hide without being hurt.

5. Where was the snake before anyone saw it and chased it away? Where does the snake disappear?

The snake was lying on the sand till someone saw it and again chased it away. The snake disappeared in the ripples of the water among the green reeds.

II. 1. Find out as much as you can about different kinds of snakes (from books in the library, or from the Internet). Are they all poisonous? Find out the names of some poisonous snakes.

No, all snakes are not poisonous. Some of the poisonous snakes are Indian Cobra, Common Krait, Russell's Viper and Saw-scaled Viper.

Solved Question Bank

Reference-to-Context Questions

Q. Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. The snake trying

to escape the pursuing stick,

with sudden carvings of thin

long body. How beautiful

and graceful are his shapes!

a. Here, the snake is trying to _____ the following stick.

escape

b. The snake has a _____ body.

thin long

c. The snake twists and turns while moving which appears very dull.

True/False

False

d. _____ in the above stanza means 'elegant'.

'Graceful'

2. He glides through the water away

from the stroke. O let him go

over the water

into reeds to hide

without hurt. Small and green

he is harmless even to children.

a. 'He' in line 1 refers to _____.

the snake

b. In the above lines, the snake has been given person like qualities, this literary device is called _____.

personification

c. The poet is very sympathetic to the snake. He appeals to let it go safely to its place.

True/False

True

d. The opposite of 'harmless' is _____.

'harmful'

3. Along the sand

he lay until observed

and chased away, and now

among the green slim reeds

a. Till the time the snake is not observed or chased away it lies _____.

along the sand

b. On being _____, the snake disappears into the ripple and hides among the _____ bushes.

Pointed/observed, green

c. The above lines show that the snake itself is a victim, and not a danger.

True/False

True

d. _____ are tall plants growing in the shallow water.

'Reeds'

Short Answer Questions

1. How does the snake look when it tries to escape?

The snake was lying along the sand when someone saw it. The person chased it with a stick. The snake glided away through the water. It looked beautiful and graceful. Its body curved and it disappeared in the reeds.

2. Where did the snake finally go?

The snake glided away through the water. It went into the reeds and finally disappeared into the ripples in the green reeds. The poet heaved a sigh of relief when the snake reached there safely.



3. 'O Let him go.' Who speaks these words? Who is 'him' here? Where does 'he' want 'him' to go?

The poet speaks these lines. 'Him' stands for the snake which is being chased by a stick. The poet wishes that the snake should not be hurt and reach its destination safely.

4. 'He is harmless even to children.' What does the poet think about the snake?

The poet is of the opinion that a snake is not always harmful. The snake which is being chased is a harmless one. The poet wishes that it should not be hurt and reach its place safely.

5. What is the message of the poem 'The Snake Trying'?

The poet loves the animals. He conveys the message that we should love them. We should not kill the animals and other creatures of God, especially when they are not harmful. They also have a right to live peacefully on the earth.

6. The snake in the poem 'The Snake Trying' is a victim and not a danger. Do you agree?

The snake in the poem 'The Snake Trying' is a victim and not a danger. Most of us think that snakes are always poisonous and harmful. We want to kill them. But here the snake does not pose any danger. It is a harmless snake. Someone saw it and chased it away with a stick. The snake is the victim.

7. 'He lay, until observed and chased away'. Who is 'he'? Where was he?

'He' is the snake which is being chased away by someone with a stick. The snake was in the sand lying peacefully. Suddenly someone chased it with a stick. It slithered towards the river to hide itself.

8. "He vanishes in the ripples." Who is 'he'? Where does 'he' disappear?

'He' is the snake. It was lying peacefully in the sand. Someone disturbed it and tried to kill with a stick. It ran towards the ripples and vanished there in the reeds.

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