MCB
STD-VIII

SUBJECT : ENGLISH
CHAPTER NUMBER: 4
PERIOD NUMBER : 1
CHAPTER NAME :MACAVITY: THE MYSTERY CAT
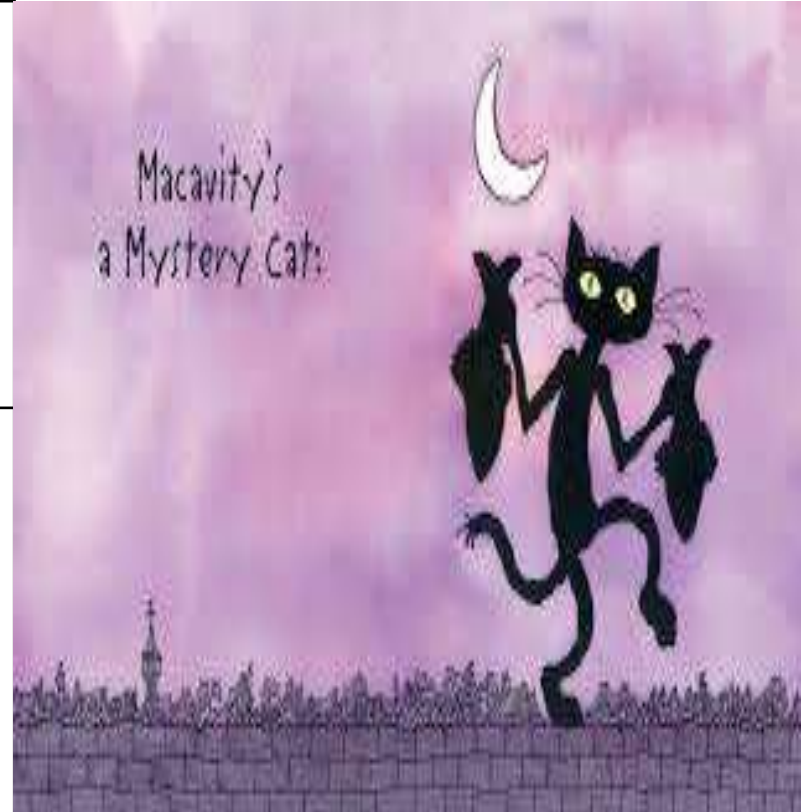**BY T.S. ELIOT**

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- Recitation of the poem
- Being acquainted with poem and poet's biography
- Understanding the idea
- Appreciate the language of the poem
- Developing LSRW Skills

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES/ EXTENDED OBJECTIVES

- Analyse the wicked qualities of the feline animal
- Understand the villainy of the cat
- Locate rhyming words and understand their significance
- Appreciate the language of the poem
- Developing LSRW Skills

Macavity's a Mystery Cat:

INTRODUCTION TO THE POET

Thomas Stearns Eliot (26 September 1888 – 4 January 1965) was a poet, essayist, publisher, playwright, literary critic and editor.

Eliot first attracted widespread attention for his poem "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" in 1915, which was received as a modernist masterpiece. It was followed by some of the best-known poems in the English language, including "The Waste Land" (1922), "The Hollow Men" (1925), "Ash Wednesday" (1930), and *Four Quartets* (1943). He was also known for his seven plays, particularly *Murder in the Cathedral* (1935) and *The Cocktail Party* (1949). He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1948, "for his outstanding, pioneer contribution to present-day poetry".

Born: 26 September 1888 in St. Louis, Missouri, US.Died: 4 January 1965 (aged 84) in London, England Nationality: American, British Genres: Modernism–Awards: Nobel Prize in Literature 1948.

- Macavity is a mystery cat.
- He is the master criminal.
- He can defy and break any law.
- Even the police force and Flying Squad of England have failed to arrest him.
- He gives a slip to them. When the police reach the scene of crime, it is too late.
- Macavity is matchless in his field.
- He can do any impossible task. He can disappear.
- He can break Newton's law of gravity and float in the air without support.
- Even the fakir and the magician are surprised to see his feats. He will outwit you. You may look for him in the basement and in the air, you will have no access to him.

MACAVITY'S A MYSTERY CAT: HE'S CALLED THE HIDDEN PAW

FOR HE'S THE MASTER CRIMINAL WHO CAN DEFY THE LAW.

DEFY – TO RESIST

EXPLANATION OF THE 1ST STANZA

Macavity's a Mystery cat: he's called the Hidden Paw
For he's the master criminal who can defy The Law.
He's the bafflement of Scotland Yard, The flying Squad's despair:
For when they reach the scene of Crime-Macavity's not there!

Context : The poet highlights how Macavity is responsible for the bewilderment faced by the police.

- Macavity is called a mystery cat.
- It is believed that he has a 'hidden paw' or a hidden foot which helps him in escaping the crime scene.
- He is called a master criminal who has baffled the police, Scotland Yard and the Flying Squad.
- No matter when the police reaches the crime scene, Macavity has already fled.

EXPLANATION OF THE 2nd STANZA

$$F_g = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$

Macavity, Macavity, there's no one like Macavity,
He's broken every human law, He breaks the law of gravity.
His powers of levitation would make a fakir Stare,
And when you reach the scene of Crime- Macavity's not there!
You may seek him in the basement You may look up in the air,
But I tell you once and once again, Macavity's not there!

Context : The poet highlights the characteristics of Macavity.

- The poet describes how there's no one like Macavity.
- He has broken each and every law even the law of gravity.
- It is believed that he could float in the air without any support.
- Seeing him escape the crime scene, anybody would stare.
- Anyone could look for him in the sky or in the depths of the Earth, but Macavity cannot be found.

EXPLANATION OF THE 3rd STANZA

Macavity's a ginger cat, he's very tall and thin;

You would know him if you saw him, For his eyes are sunken in.

His brow is deeply lined with thought, his head Is highly domed;

His coat is dusty from neglect, his whiskers are Uncombed.

He sways his head from side to side, With movements like a snake;

And when you think he's half asleep he's always Wide awake.

- Macavity is called a ginger cat.
- He is unique in the way he looks and the way he does everything.
- He is tall and thin and has sunken eyes. His eyebrows are deeply lined.
- His head is highly domed, his coat is always dusty and whiskers are uncombed.
- His head moves from side to side like the movements of a snake.
- He goes untraced at the crime scene because he is also very clever and alert.

EXPLANATION OF THE 4th STANZA

Macavity, Macavity, there's no one like Macavity,

For he's a fiend in feline shape, a Monster of depravity.

You may meet him in a by street, you may see him in the square

But when a crime's discovered then Macavity's not-there!

- Macavity is unique. He is a devil in the form of a cat.
- He is morally corrupt and the monster of corruption.
- One may find him in a by-street, near the square, here or there, but on the crime scene, he's never there.
- No one can ever catch hold of Macavity

VOCABULARY

- defy– disobey
- bafflement – confusion
- levitation – the act rising and floating in the air
- fakir – a religious ascetic
- fiend – an evil spirit/ enemy
- feline- a member of the cat family
- Depravity-wickedness

Home Assignment:
1. Trace Macavity's qualities.
2. 1 page handwriting

POETIC DEVICES USED IN THE POEM..

Personification: Personification is giving human characteristics to animals or non-living things. Here in the poem, Macavity is personified as he does all the things like humans.

Anaphora: It is the repetition of a phrase in a poem. In the poem various words and phrases are repeated to create poetic effect. e.g. *"Macavity, Macavity", "Macavity's not there"* etc.

Alliteration: It is the repetition of consonant sound in the line.

e.g. *"**M**acavity's **M**ystery", "**h**ead is **h**ighly", "**s**ide to **s**ide"* etc.

Symbolism: The poet uses various symbols in the poem. e.g. his appearance symbolises his villainous character, *footprints* symbolise his name etc.

Alliteration
Repetition of the first sound or sounds in a group of words.
(Ex: She sells seashells down by the seashore)

Anaphora:
Reach for a *leaf*,
Reach for a *cloud*,
Reach for a *sky of blue*

The angry tornado stormed across the lonely prairie.

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