

# FIRST FLIGHT

## STD-X

**SUBJECT : ENGLISH**  
**CHAPTER NUMBER: 3**  
**CHAPTER NAME : A TIGER IN THE ZOO**  
**BY LESLIE NORRIS**

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**CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW**

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# INTRODUCTION TO THE POET



**Leslie Norris** was a Welsh poet and short story writer. **He was born in 1921 in Wales.** His first poem was published in 1938, but his first book of poetry came out in 1943. He shot to fame with his first publication 'Finding Gold'. His works won various awards including the Cholmondeley poetry prize and the Katherine Mansfield memorial award. **He died in 2006.**

**Born** 21 May 1921, Merthyr Tydfil, United Kingdom

**Died:** 6 April 2006, Provo, Utah, United States

**Awards:** Cholmondeley Award

## THEME OF THE POEM

The poet shows his readers that a tiger is better suited to live in the forest, rather than living in a zoo. It can roam freely and hunt as and when it requires food. It can approach human habitations and intimidate its inhabitants, but will not harm them unless it is provoked. On the other hand in the zoo its movement is limited. It feels like a prisoner. It doesn't appreciate humans coming to look at it. In this poem the poet heightens the contrast between freedom and captivity.



# EXPLANATION

- STANZA 1
- He stalks.....rage
- The tiger is locked in a concrete cell in the zoo. Stripes on his skin are clearly visible. He can hardly take few steps. He looks majestic as he moves up and down in his cage. He doesn't seem to be happy in his confinement.



## STANZA 2

- 'He showed..... deer pass'
- The tiger knows how to catch his prey. He silently slides through the long grass and catches the plump deer near water hole.



## STANZA 3

- ‘He should .....the village’
- If the tiger hadn’t been found in the cage, he would have been roaming freely. He should have been growling around the houses of the human settlement at the outskirts of the jungle. He would be showing his white fangs and terrible claws and terrorising the villagers.



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