

Get Going

A. Let us find the answers from the poem.

1. What does the 'weary glance' of the panther change to?

A) The 'weary glance' of the panther grows into a 'dazed and vacant stare'.

2. What does his glance capture?

A) The panther's glance captures a thousand bars and empty air beyond them.

3. How does the panther spend his time?

A) The panther spends his time walking in circles in his cage.

4. What does the speaker observe in the panther's eyes?

A) The speaker sometimes notices a flood of visions in the eyes of the panther.

5. Describe the physical appearance of the panther.

A) In the poem, the panther is described as having a 'dazed and vacant stare', and looks weary from his long captivity. He is also described as having strong feet and limbs.

B. Let us read between the lines.

1. What is the panther weary of? How does he react to it?

A) The panther appears to be weary of being trapped behind the bars. Over time, his gaze becomes 'dazed and vacant' to the point where he is so tired that he has vision of thousand bars trapping him.

2. What does the phrase 'dance of strength' imply?

A) The 'dance of strength' refers to the panther majestically walking in circles inside his cage.

3. Explain the contrast mentioned in the second stanza of the poem.

A) The contrast mentioned in the second stanza of the poem is between the constantly pacing panther and his immobile will in the middle of this circle. The panther moves in a circle within the cage, showing restless energy and frustration on being trapped. On the other hand, his will for freedom manifests in the centre of the circle and remains unmoving in spite of his movement.

4. Why does the 'flood of visions' sink and die?

A) The imprisoned panther sometimes experiences a 'flood of visions'; however, this 'sinks and

dies when it reaches his heart. This might be because the panther's powerful desire to go out in the wild and be free seems useless and painful for him in captivity.

5. The poem is a sad and gloomy note about the condition of the panther. Suggest an ending that can lighten the mood.

A) I think the poem could have ended on a lighter note if at the end, the panther had broken free of his cage and reunited with his family in the jungle.