

The Complaint of the Camel  
In this poem, Carroll pays a witty tribute to the hardworking camel, which lives and works in hot and uncomfortable places like deserts.

Theme Of The Poem

It is a complaint of a camel. First, it complains about the food given to it by comparing with others. Then, it complains about the place it sleeps. Then it complains about the home given to it. Furthermore, it complains about its looks. This is the very nature of humans, we never learn to appreciate what we have but we always keep complaining our selves with others.

Questions & Answers.

- Q1) What ~~the~~ are the five things according to the camel no one cares ~~about~~? about?  
Ans According to the camel, no one cares about where it rests, eats, lives, how much load it carries on.
- Q2) Which are the ~~the~~ things that human beings can help the camel ~~with~~ with?

Q4 Human beings can help get the camel better food, more comfortable places to live and rest. They can also help to reduce the load that the camel carries.

Q5 How do human beings look after the living arrangements of other animals?

Ans Human beings let cats rest on chairs, chickens rest upon nests and kittens stay in warm houses. They build stables for puppies, enclosures for lambs, coops for hens and pens for sheep.

Q6 Which animals does the camel compare itself to?

Ans The camel compares itself to many - birds, parrots, hawks, chickens, puppies, oysters, lambs, hens, kittens, pigs, giraffes, oxen, rabbits, foxes, snakes, weasels, alligators and lizards.

Q7 How are the last lines of every stanza similar?

What is the meaning of the word 'does' in this context?

Ans The last lines of every stanza are similar as they all begin with 'But' and say how no one cares very much about the camel. The last line of each stanza is written the style of 'anything / any place / anywhere / any load / any shore does for me'. In all the lines, the

camel is saying at ~~the~~ one ~~camel~~ about how it lives, eats & looks. The word 'des' means work here.

Q How does the camel sound - unhappy, grateful, jealous or something else? Could it be proud? Give examples to support your answers.

Ans The camel may sound unhappy and jealous when it compares itself with other animals and describes how they have better places to live, better things to eat and even better shapes than the camel. It even calls itself a 'poor camel' because it is not cared for in the same way as other animals. The poem is also titled 'The Plight of the Camel' though ~~over~~ the camel could also be proud that it can adjust so well to different conditions. No matter what the place, food or load, the camel can take care of itself.

Q7 ~~How~~ what does this poem say about how helpful the camel is to human beings?

Ans The poem mentions that the camel is ~~some~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~its~~ <sup>its</sup> ~~own~~ <sup>own</sup> ~~family~~ <sup>family</sup>. This tells us how the camel is useful to human beings.

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Also, people do not bother much about what the camel eats or where it stays. This tells us that the camel can live and work without any special arrangements. People use camels without having to worry too much about its food or shelter.

Q28 Which two lines in each stanza have rhyming words within them? What are those rhyming words?

Ans The first and third lines of each stanza have rhyming words within them. These are feed/seed, hoodles/noodles, aware/dare, able/stable, enclosed/exposed, treated/heated, laugh/giraffe, habit/rahit, round/ground, alligator/straighter.

Q29 What makes this poem funny? Would it be equally funny if it was narrated by a person rather than a camel? Why or why not?

Ans The fact that the poem is narrated by a camel makes it funny. The camel compares itself to other animals in a funny way. The poem would not be so funny if it were narrated by a person because even if a person talked about the camel it would not be as funny.

would not be able to talk about it exactly  
as the camel can. Only the camel can talk  
about its problems and yet sound funny.

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