

Macavity: The Mystery Cat

Date _____
Page _____

Q. 1. Which of these names has the speaker not given to Macavity?

Ans. Yiddlebone.

2. Which of these organisations has not been affected by Macavity?

Ans. The United Nations.

3. Write a brief description of Macavity based on your understanding of the third stanza.

Ans. Macavity is a ginger cat colored cat. He can be reorganized from his eyes which are deeply sunken in. He has a line on his forehead, steeped with thoughts. He has a highly domed head, his coat is untidy and his whiskers are uncombed. Macavity moves like a snake and even when he is mistaken to be asleep, he is wide awake.

4. Make a list of the crimes that Macavity has committed.

Ans. Macavity has looted from the larder, rifled the jewel case, consumed all the milk. He has stifled barking geese dogs, he has broken the greenhouse glass and destroyed the trellis. Whenever the foreign office had found that a treaty that has gone astray, or the Admiralty has lost some plans and drawings, they believed that Macavity is the culprit.

5. Who are Mungojerrie and Griddlebone? How are they related to Macavity?

Ans. Mungojerrie and Griddlebone are wicked cats but their deviousness is nothing comparison to Macavity. The poet compares Macavity to Napoleon, who is helped by his agents Mungojerrie and Griddlebone, in controlling operations.

B- Let us read between the lines :-

1. Why it is useless to investigate Macavity ?

Ans. It is useless to investigate Macavity as he never leaves any evidence at the scene of the crime. It always appears as if he was never present at the scene. Also, he always has some ~~alibi~~ alibi to prove his innocence.

2. What phrase is repeated in almost every stanza? What is the significance of this repetition?

Ans. The phrase has been repeated throughout the poem. It signifies.... Macavity manages to commit crimes everywhere but never leaves any evidence behind.

Another line repeated throughout the poem is Macavity, Macavity, There's no one like Macavity. By this repetition the poet

highlights the fact that there is only one criminal mastermind, and it is Macavity.

3. The speaker has exaggerated in some places for effect. Point out a few such instances. Write a line of your own adding to the description of Macavity using the same effect.

Ans. The speaker has used exaggeration in many places. For example, Macavity can defy the law of gravity as he can move so fast that even the Scotland Yard is not able to catch him. The speaker also mentions that Macavity knows the answer to a question even before one has asked it.

Let us go beyond the poem :-

1. Why do you think Macavity steals and commits crime?

Ans. I think Macavity intentionally commits

the crime. Activities that are regular to him might be considered criminal offence by others as they comprise minor destruction of property or disturbance to people.

2. Do you think the speaker is really talking about a cat in the poem?

Ans. I don't think poet is talking about a cat in the poem as the acts presented in the poem are too peculiar to be termed as criminal offence by a person. The poet makes them offences of an imaginary cat.

VOCABULARY JUNCTION :-

~~worsened~~

3. a) The waffles worsened while the waiter waited.

b) Slowly, silently now the moon walks in the night in her silver shoes.

c) The wicked witch of the west went her own way.

d) The red roses were wrapped in red silk.

e) Rudolf the Reindeer had a red nose.

Pg-59

GRAMMAR JUNCTION

1. a) Our country is blessed with such diversity.

b) Graduation is an exciting time for students.

c) What explanation could you possibly give for this?

d) I have understood ~~to~~ that ~~candidate's~~ candidate's intentions.

e) The captain of the team refused to give any reaction to the accusations made on her.