

Get Going

A) 1) Which of these names has the speaker not given to Macavity?

c) Gwiddlebone

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

d) The United Nations

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

Ans - Macavity is a ginger coloured cat. He is very tall and thin. He can be recognised from his eyes which are deeply sunken in. He has lines 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 widely awake.

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

Ans- Macavity has looted food from the larder, sifted the jewel case, consumed all the milk etc. He has stifled Pekingese dogs. He has broken the greenhouse glass and destroyed the trellis. Whenever the foreign office has found that a treaty that has gone astray, or the Admiralty has lost some plans or 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 deceitfulness is nothing in comparison to Macavity. The poet compares Macavity to Napoleon, who is helped by his agents, Mungojerrie and Griddlebone, in controlling operations.

B) 1) Why is it useless to investigate Macavity?

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

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

Ans- The sentence 'Macavity is not here' is repeated throughout the poem. It signifies Macavity's cleverness as he manages to commit crimes everywhere but never leaves behind any evidence.

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 and move so fast that even the Scotland Yard is not even able to catch him.

C) i) Why do you think Macavity steals and commits crimes?

Ans- I think Macavity intentionally commits crimes. Activities that are regular to him might be considered a 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 the poet is talking about a cat in the poem. He must have presented a demon in the form of a cat.