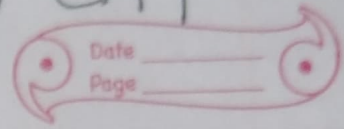


MACAVITY: THE MYSTERY CAT

Exercise



Grid going

A. Let us find the answers from the poem

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

a) Hidden paw

b) Monster of Depravity

c) Girdle bone

d) Napoleon of Crime

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

a) The secret service

b) The flying squad

c) The Foreign office

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 thin and ~~is~~ tall. 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 wide awake.

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

Ans.

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

5. Who are Mongoferrie and Gwiddlebone?
How are they related to Macavity?

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

B. Let us read between the lines.

1. Why is it ~~useless~~ 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 spare 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.

C. B. Let us ^{go} ~~read~~ beyond the poem.

1. What do you think Macavity steals and commit crimes?

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 too.

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 as the acts presented in the poem are too

~~poets~~ peculiar to be termed as criminal offence by a person. The poet makes them offences of an imaginary poet.

Vocabulary Junction

1. Underline the instances of alliteration in these sentence.
 - a) We are so happy to have him here.
 - b) Lightly leaps the leaping llama.
 - c) Mom rabbed her niece by the nape of her neck.
 - d) She should show some respect.
 - e) She took time to tackle the tubq.

2. Unscramble the jumbled letters in brackets to form words and complete the alliterations in each sentence.

a) The waffles were served ~~the~~ while the waiter (waiter) waited.

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

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

d) The red roses were wrapped (red paper) in red silk.

e) Rudolf the reindeer (deer) had a red nose.

Grammar Junction

1. Read the sentences. Underline the nouns that have been derived from a verb or an adjective in these sentences.
- a) Our country is blessed with such diversity. - adjective, - ~~diversity~~ diverged
- b) Graduation is an exciting time for students.
- c) What explanations could you possibly give for this?
- d) I have understood that candidate's intentions.
- e) The captain of the team refused to give any reaction to the accusations made on her.

Q. Write the noun ~~form~~ form of the verbs given below.

Verb / Adjective	Noun
Necessary	Necessity
Establish	Establishment
Questions	Questions
Shy	Shyness
Reproduce	Reproduction
Better	Betterment