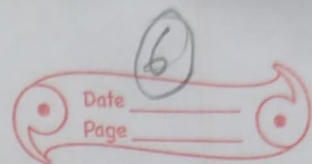


H.W
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THE PEACOCK



A. Answer these questions

1. What is the 'flash of turquoise' in the pipal tree? Why is it described so?

Ans The 'flash of turquoise' in the pipal tree is the peacock. It is described because the speaker catches a glimpse of the radiant bluish-green neck of the peacock behind the pipal tree.

2. What does it mean to 'live inside the book'?

Ans. 'To live inside the book' means to concentrate on reading the book and get ~~read~~ totally absorbed in it and forget your surroundings.

3. According to the speaker, what do you have to do observe the peacock?

Ans. According to the speaker, you have to sit on the veranda and read your favorite book with concentration and become fully engrossed in it for the peacock to visit you. In other words, you must ignore the peacock and not look out for ~~it~~ it and then you spot it easily.

4. How do the cat, wind and bees tell the speaker that the peacock has arrived?

Ans. The wind changes direction, the bees stop humming and the cat awakens and stretches to signal the arrival of the peacock.

B. Think and answer

1. The speaker tells us that it is very difficult to catch a glimpse of the peacock. How does she convey this to us?

Ans.

The poem begins with a sense of mystery: the peacock seems to appear on the scene from 'nowhere': but even before it is properly glimpsed, it disappears. Before this fleeting vision, the peacock is heard, a call that announces its presence, a call that is "loud" and distinctive. The speaker says it is likely to see the peacock when the person is seated with a book, engaged in reading it with deep 'concentration'. By the time the person engrossed in reading lifts his eyes to sense the presence of the peacock, only a passing glimpse of its vision can be had.

Qo To shut those dark glowing eyes,
Violet fringed with golden amber.
It is the tail that has to blink
For eyes that are always open.

a) What are the 'violet' and 'golden amber' eyes that the speaker is talking about? How are these eyes always open?

Ans- The violet and golden amber eyes are the designs on the peacock's tail. The speaker says that these eyes are always open because there are no eyelids on these 'eyes' for them to close and it always seems like many eyes are watching us.

b) How does the peacock 'blink' its tail? What happens to the eyes when it does so?

Ans- The shaking of the feathers is compared to the ~~blinking~~ blinking of eyes as the eyes on the feathers can't blink any other way but by the shaking of the feathers. The eyes seem to blink what it does on.

Using words

Complete these sentences using the correct forms of the movement words from the box.

1. The eagle swooped down from the branch and snatched the mouse.
2. Neha's mouth stretched as she began to cry.
3. Kareena lunged for the last biscuit on the plate.
4. The deer darted away from the headlights of the car.
5. The plane plummeted toward the ground as the engines failed.

Appreciating the poem

1. What are the sentences in "The Peacock" that appeal to our sense of sight and sound?

Ans- Sound

- * His loud sharp call seems to come from nowhere.
- * Wind will change direction,
- * The steady hum of bees in the bushes nearby will stop.

Light

- * The mind of the reader is filled with colourful image of the peacock, its ~~flask~~ sleek figure and use of the lines.
- * Then, a flash of turquoise in the fopal tree, The slender neck arched away from you.

- * The cat will awaken and stretch.
- * The peacock leering away as he gathers his tail To shut those dark glowing eyes,
- * Violet fringed with golden amber

Q. What is the tone of poem? Is it admiring, respectful, loving or indifferent? What do you think the speaker feels about the peacock?

Ans. The tone of the poem is one of mystery, suspense and awe. It begins appear on the scene from 'nowhere' but even it is in awe of its colours, shapes and attitude. The peacock's behavior is unpredictable, it continues to contribute the subject of anticipation and excitement.