

SARALA BIRLA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Birla Knowledge City, Mahilong, Ranchi

CLASS- IX, (2020-21)



Sub: English
Assignment-2
The Snake Trying (Poem)

By- WWE Ross

I. Author:

William Wrighton Eustace Ross was a Canadian poet and geophysicist. He was born on 14 June 1894 in Peterborough, Canada. He died on 26th August 1966 in Toronto, Canada. He attended the University of Toronto where he earned his degree in Geophysics (1914). He used simple diction and syntax in his poems. Irrealities, Sonnets and Laconics are some of his notable works.

2. Central Idea of the poem:

In this poem, the poet says that the snake tries to escape from being hit by the stick held by a person who is trying to kill it. The poet asserts that not all the snakes are harmful. Human beings have the notion that snakes are dangerous and try to kill them as soon as they find one. But this is not true. He tells us how a harmless green- coloured snake tries to hide behind the green bushes in order to save itself.

3. Summary:

In this poem, a harmless green- coloured snake tries to save itself from being hit by a person who is chasing it with a stick. The person wants to kill it because people fear snakes. People think that snakes are harmful so they kill the snake. People get alarmed at the sight of the snake thinking it to be poisonous. The poet in this poem states that not all the snakes are harmful. When the poet talks about the snakes, he asserts that the snake in the poem is harmless even to the children. The snake tries to save itself

and hides behind the green- coloured bushes of marshy plants growing in the water. It hides in the ripples of the water body to save itself. The snake disappears behind the marshy plants.

4. Explanation:

a. Paragraph 1:

“The snake tryinggraceful are his shapes!”

Pursuing: chasing, following

Curvings: twisting

The poem opens with the image of a snake being chased with a stick and trying to save itself from being struck. As the snake was lying on the sandy bank of the river or a pond, someone observed it and ran after it with a stick to kill it. The snake tries to escape the pursuing stick. It runs with sudden curves in its body which makes it look very beautiful and graceful.

b. Paragraph 2:

“He glides through the water.....even to the children.”

Glides: moves

Stroke: Hitting of the stick

Reeds: Water or marsh plants with thick stems

The snake moves through the water in order to save itself. The poet pleads to let the snake escape and hide behind the thick marshy plants as it is harmless. The poet asserts that the small green-coloured snake is harmless even to the children.

c. Paragraph 3:

Vanishes: disappears

“Along the sand the green slim reeds.”

The poet says that the snake lay quietly on the sand until it was

spotted by the man holding a stick. The snake disappears in the ripples of the water and hides in the camouflaging green bushes of the marshy plants.

5. Literary Devices:

- a. The poem has been written in free verse. It has no rhyme scheme.
- b. Transferred Epithet: It means the adjective used with a noun refers to noun other than the one with which it is used .

Example: Pursuing Stick

Here pursuing refers to the man who is having the stick and not the stick itself.

- c. Alliteration: The repetition of the same sound in two or more consecutive words.

Example: "He is harmless." (H sound)

6. Theme:

Most of us think snakes are fearsome symbols of death. But the poet has a different opinion about it. According to him, snakes are not harmful if they are not disturbed. They harm the human beings only when they think them to be a danger for their own life.

However, in this poem we get to see that the snake itself becomes a victim of human hardness.

7. Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words.

1. What is the snake trying to escape from?
2. Is it a harmful snake? What is its colour?
3. Find the words used by the poet to convey the beauty of the snake.
4. What does the poet wish for the snake?

5. Where was the snake before anyone saw it and chased it away?

Where does the speaker disappear?

6. How does the snake escape and survive the pursuing stick?

English Grammar

Determiners

1. Definition: Determiners are those words which are prefixed before Nouns to determine their meanings. It is used before a Noun to indicate which thing or people we are talking about. The words 'a', 'the', 'my', 'this', 'some', 'many' etc are called Determiners.

Example:

He is a good boy.

The boy you met is my friend.

This novel is very interesting.

2. Kinds of Determiners:

Articles Determiners

Demonstrative Determiners

Possessive Determiners

Definite Numeral Determiners

Indefinite Numeral Determiners

Distributive Numeral Determiners

Quantitative Determiners

3. Explanation:

A. Articles Determiners: The three articles- a, an, the- are a kind of determiner as they are almost invariably followed by a Noun. 'A' and 'An' are the two indefinite articles used with singular countable nouns. They are used to refer something in a less specific manner. 'A' is used before the words beginning with the sound of a consonant.

Example: It is not a crow.

I saw a sports bike.

In both the sentences, 'A' is used before words with the sound of consonant. They speak about things in general. In the above sentences, crow and sports bike are used for any crow or sports bike.

Whereas, 'An' is used before words that begin with the vowel sound (a,e,i,o,u).

Example:

An elephant killed a boy.

An honest man never steals.

'The' is the definite article. It is used before both singular and plural nouns. Its main function of use is that it is used to specify a person, place or thing.

Example:

I met an old lady at the store today.

The apples in the basket are quite fresh.

The girl who stood first was given a prize.

B. Demonstrative Determiners: This, that, these and those are used as determiners to point the objects denoted by the Noun.

Example:

This car is very beautiful.

Aditi lives in that house.

These books are yours.

Distribute these mangoes among those children.

C. Possessive Determiners: My, our, your, his, her, its, their and one's are possessive forms of Pronouns. They are used before singular and plural nouns to indicate relationship and possession.

Example:

My mother is a teacher.

Our school has fifty rooms.

Your father is calling you.

One must do one's duty.

D. Definite Numeral Determiners: These indicate a definite number of objects or person (Cardinal) Example:

The beggar is blind of one eye.

She has two daughters.

Five boys are sitting on that bench.

These determiners also express sequence such as first, second, third etc referring to the position of something in series (Ordinal).

Example:

The girl in the third row is my cousin.

The man in the first room is our warden.

E. Indefinite Numeral Determiner: These determiners are used to represent uncertain numbers.

Example:

There are some notes on the table.

Many girls are absent today.

She gave me all the grapes.

F. Distributive Numeral Determiners: They give information about the noun in a clause or a sentence. They may refer to a group or every individual in the group. They are- each, every, all, both, half, either and neither.

Example:

Every human being on earth dies.

Each boy likes to play games.

All the children were present in the class.

G. Quantitative Determiners: These determiners are used to indicate the quantity. Some, any, no, much, more, less, little and many are Quantitative Determiners.

Example:

There is still much water in the lake.

Some boys are playing in the top floor.

I don't have any answer for your question.

The hope for success is little.

4. Assignment:

Fill in the blanks with suitable determiners.

- a. Could you bring me _____ books I left in the garden.
- b. _____ sun rises from the east.
- c. The doctor advised me to eat _____ apple everyday.
- d. There aren't _____ students in the class.
- e. I haven't got _____ pictures in my bedroom.
- f. She gave a cookie to _____ child.
- g. I have got to solve _____ Math problems before I go to sleep.
- h. _____ cherries are delicious! (bowl of cherries on your lap).
- i. My mother doesn't drink _____ coffee.
- j. I always keep _____ money in my wallet for emergencies.
- k. Lisa saw _____ shooting star yesterday.
- l. Don't look directly at _____ sun.
- m. The dogs were _____ given a bone.
- n. The police spoke separately to _____ suspect.
- o. She was wearing a bracelet on _____ wrist.
- p. She got her license without _____ problem.

5. Write an essay in 600-800 words on how people all over the world are living through the pandemic.

X.....X.....X

