



**INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
SENIOR SECTION
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
CLASS X
A TIGER IN THE ZOO**



DATE

SUMMARY

This poem contrasts a tiger when it is in its natural habitat and when it is imprisoned in a zoo. On a starry night, the poet sees a tiger in a zoo. The tiger moves slowly up and down in his cage. He is full of rage but is quiet in his helplessness. The poet is moved to pity for the tiger. He says that the tiger should have been in the jungle. He should have been moving quietly in the shadows near some water hole, and waiting for a plump deer to pass that way. But sadly he is locked behind bars in a concrete cell. He does not take any notice of the visitors and is looking at the brilliant stars with his brilliant eyes. Now he has to be content with merely looking at the stars. He is no longer free to move in his natural habitat and look at the brilliant stars from there.

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follows.

1. **He should be snarling around houses At the jungle's edge,
Baring his white fangs, his claws,
Terrorising the village!**
 - (a) What does the poet try to suggest through these lines?
 - (b) How does the tiger scare the people?
 - (c) Why does 'he' snarl?
 - (d) How does 'he' show his presence?

2. **But he's locked in a concrete cell,
His strength behind bars, Stalking the
length of his cage, Ignoring visitors.**
 - (a) What does the phrase 'his strength behind the bar' suggest?
 - (b) Why does the tiger ignore the visitors?
 - (c) What is the tiger doing in the cage?
 - (d) What does the expression 'stalking the length of the cage' imply?

3. **He stalks in his vivid stripes, The few
steps of his cage, On pads of velvet quiet,
In his quiet rage.**
 - (a) Why could the tiger walk only a few steps?
 - (b) How does the tiger move in the cage?
 - (c) What are the two qualities of the animal under reference?
 - (d) Why is he in quiet rage?

Short answer questions (30-40 words)

1. What does the tiger do in his cage?
2. Why should the tiger snarl around houses at the edge of the forest?
3. Why do you think the tiger looks at the stars?
4. What does the poet convey through the poem?

Long answer questions

1. Love for freedom is the natural instinct of every living being. Elucidate, with reference to the tiger mentioned in the poem.