

The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Previous Year Questions

- Q.1.** What makes Custard, the dragon look fearsome? Explain
- Q.2.** Belinda and other animals have been described as brave. But on seeing the pirate they behaved in a cowardly way. How did they react?
- Q.3.** "The Tale of Custard the Dragon" is a humorous ballad. How does Ogden Nash create humour and entertainment in the poem?
- Q.4.** Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

Belinda embraced him, Mustard licked him,
No one mourned for his pirate victim.
Ink and Blink in glee did gyrate
Around the dragon that ate the pirate.

Answer in one word only:

(i) Mustard was happily licking the _____.

ii) Belinda embraced Mustard

I. out of shock

II. out of helplessness

III. out of happiness

IV. out of gratitude

Choose the correct option:

(a) I and IV

(b) Only III

(c) II and III

(d) III and IV

(iii) Why were Ink and Blink happy?

(iv) Complete the analogy and choose the word from the extract that means the opposite of the given word.

Day : Night :: Steady : _____

(v) The phrase 'no one mourned' most nearly means

- (a) no one celebrated
- (b) no one embraced him
- (c) no one felt sad
- (d) no one paid a tribute to him

Q.5. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

Belinda embraced him, Mustard licked him,
No one mourned for his pirate victim.
Ink and Blink in glee did gyrate
Around the dragon that ate the pirate.

(The Tale of Custard the Dragon)

(i) Complete the following suitably :

Belinda's and Mustard's reaction reflected a sense of _____

(ii) 'Embraced' in this context means:

- (A) to accept
- (B) to feel awkward and sheepish
- (C) to put your arms around someone
- (D) to show disagreement

(iii) Select the option that applies the same rhyme scheme as the lines of the given extract.

(A)

I have a cat
I have a house
I have a mouse
I have a hat.

(B)

She went there
The house was bare
Not a sound was heard
Except the tweet of a bird.

(C)

People along the sand
all turn to look one way.
The wetter ground like glass
swept their gaze away.

(D)

The bird flew
to the sky blue
It was beauty true
I have to say

(iv) What is the irony in the behaviour of the characters in the given extract ?

Q.6. How did Custard prove 'the cowardly dragon' tag to be untrue ?

Q.7. How would you describe Custard the Dragon ?

Q.8. Describe Custard the dragon.

Q.9. How does the poem "The Tale of Custard The Dragon' differ from the traditional ballad?

Q.10. Describe how Custard the dragon fights with the Pirate.

Q.11. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

But the dragon was a coward, and she called him Custard.
Custard the dragon had big sharp teeth,
And spikes on top of him and scales underneath
Mouth like a fireplace, chimney for a nose,
And realio, trulio daggers on his toes.

(i) Complete the analogy by selecting the suitable word from the extract.

sharp : blunt :: above : _____

(ii) Which one of the following is not a feature of the Dragon ?

- (a) big sharp teeth
- (b) spikes on the top
- (c) brave as a lion
- (d) could release fire from the mouth

(iii) What effect does the poet want to create by the simile 'mouth like a fireplace'?

- (a) emphasis
- (b) compassion
- (c) rhyme
- (d) pathos

(iv) Complete the sentence appropriately.

It is clear that 'Metaphor' is the poetic device used for 'chimney for a nose' because _____ (Clue : explain how metaphor applies here)

(v) State whether the following statement is True or False based on the given extract:

Custard's formidable appearance was a true reflection of his courage

Q.12. Belinda tickled him, she ticked him unmerciful,
Ink, Blink and Mustard, they rudely called him Percival,
They all sat laughing in the little red wagon
At the realio, trulio, cowardly dragon.

- (a) Who was tickled by Belinda ?
- (b) Why did she tickle 'him'?
- (c) Who are Ink, Blink and Mustard ?
- (d) Why did they all laugh at 'him'?