

Saved?

I am a proud, proud beast from the Serengeti.
 I prowled my land with puffed-up chest,
 Walking on the dusty bones and dirt of my ancestors
 As my children would walk on mine.
 Every day the wind brought with it the smell of my land.
 The distant scent of fear my presence presented
 Fuelled my strides as I chased and pounced.
 The darkness was swift for my victims.
 There was no anger from them for they knew a sacred cycle of life had been completed –
 And that they would be greeted in the darkness.
 Then Man came.

My brothers became the victims, felled by loud whizzing stones that broke their flesh
 and took their life.
 I searched for the roars of my brothers but was deceived by the rushing waterfalls.
 I sought the scent of my brothers but was tricked by the smells of the wild.
 I hunted for the sight of my brothers but was fooled by the stripes in the sunlit reeds.
 What unnatural cycle was this?
 Then Man came.

Now swift poison darts broke my skin and closed my eyes.
 I awoke not in the darkness with my victims but in a silent man-cage of steel.
 I hoped to be greeted by ancestors –
 But was not.
 Cold grey dust pushed against my feet as I awoke and the stripes I saw were metal.
 The wind was heavy with foreign smells and the men and their cubs stared.

I am a proud, proud beast of the Serengeti
 But now I am saved from it – how I wish I was still there.

C J Fenton



Inference Questions



7. What type of smells do you think would make the air 'heavy'?

1
mark

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8. Find and copy a phrase from the poem that describes the fact that all animals will eventually die or be killed, and that this provides food for other animals.

1
mark

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9. Who is the creature talking about when it says 'cubs'?

1
mark

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10. Why do you think the creature was 'deceived' by the sound of the waterfall?

1
mark

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11. Tick two boxes to show how the creature is feeling at the **beginning** and **end** of the poem.

Proud to be showing off in the cage

☐

Proud to be born free and living free

☐

Happy because he won't have to hunt for his food in the cage

☐

Angry and confused and lonely

☐

Eager to make new friends

☐

2
marks

A Reading Raptor would know exactly what was going on in this poem. Did you? Tick to show how you did.

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Inference Questions



For **INFERENCE** questions you need to work out what's happened or how a character feels, even if the text doesn't spell it out. See you if you can work out the answers to these.

1. What is 'the darkness'?

1
mark

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2. What are the 'loud whizzing stones'?

1
mark

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3. The animal could not find his 'brothers' because

they were
hiding from him

they were lost

they had been
killed by humans

they were
camouflaged

1
mark

Put a ring around your choice.

4. What do you think the creature is doing when the author uses the words 'chased and pounced'?

1
mark

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5. 'Walking on the dusty bones and dirt of my ancestors
As my children would walk on mine.'

From this sentence, do you think the animal is scared of dying? Explain your answer.

2
marks

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6. How do you think the creature feels when he realises he is not dead?

1
mark

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Inference Questions



*Some of the INFERENCE questions get a bit trickier here, but don't panic.
Carefully read through the poem again and see if you can answer these.*

1. Find and copy a phrase from the poem that tells us that everything is about to change.

1
mark

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2. Using evidence from the poem, explain what type of animal you think is speaking.

2
marks

.....

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3. **'But now I am saved from it — how I wish I was still there.'**

Explain what this sentence means.

2
marks

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4. What do you think the creature means when it says it **'hoped to be greeted by ancestors'**?

2
marks

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5. **'Now swift poison darts broke my skin and closed my eyes.'**

What do you think happened to the creature?

The creature
was shot and
killed

The creature
was shot and
badly injured

The creature
was shot and
blinded

The creature was
shot with drugs
that knocked it out

1
mark

Put a ring around your choice.

Inference Questions



6. Find and underline the phrase the writer uses to describe a quick death in these lines:

The distant scent of fear my presence presented
 Fuelled my strides as I chased and pounced.
 The darkness was swift for my victims.

1
mark

7. Why does the creature ask 'What unnatural cycle was this?'

Answer the question as fully as you can, referring to the text where possible.

3
marks

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8. How do you think the creature feels about humans?

Use evidence from the text to help you with your answer.

2
marks

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9. How are the 'victims' in the first verse different from those in the second verse?

Use evidence from the text in your answer.

2
marks

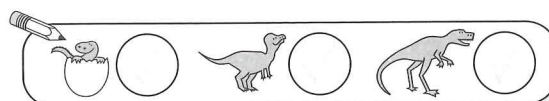
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Reading Raptors can do inference questions faster than you can say 'reading raptor'. How did you do?



Fact Retrieval Questions



For **FACT RETRIEVAL** questions all you need to do is look in the poem for the bit of information you are asked for and write it down. Scan through the poem and find the answers to these.

1. At the beginning of the poem, how does the creature describe himself?

1
mark

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2. Why weren't the creature's victims angry?

1
mark

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3. How does the creature describe his cage?

1
mark

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4. Find two words from the poem that suggest the creature is looking for his friends.

2
marks

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5. Find and copy a phrase which is used more than once in the poem.

1
mark

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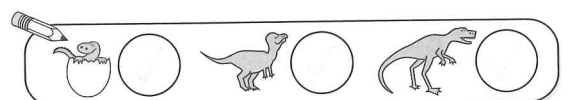
6. What are the two different types of stripes that are described in the poem?

2
marks

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Reading Raptors can find facts hidden on an unknown planet in outer space. How about you?



Writer's Purpose Questions



For WRITER'S PURPOSE questions you have to try and work out what ideas the writer was trying to communicate, or how they wanted the reader to feel.

1. Why do you think the author described the wind as 'heavy with foreign smells'?

2
marks

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2. 'I am a proud, proud beast from the Serengeti'

Why do you think the poem starts and ends with the same phrase?

2
marks

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3. a) How does the author make you feel in the third verse?

Sad

Happy

Relieved

1
mark

Put a ring around your choice.

- b) Explain your answer to part a) with reference to the text.

2
marks

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4. How do you think the author feels about capturing animals to put in a zoo?

How can you tell?

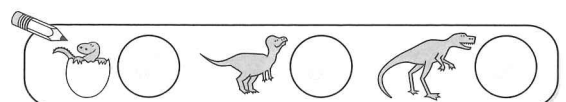
3
marks

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Reading Raptors have special powers for working out what writers are trying to achieve. How did you do?



Language Questions



LANGUAGE questions are about working out why the author chose to use certain words or say things in a certain way. Read through the text again and have a go at these questions.

1. Underline two adjectives in the lines below:

Now swift poison darts broke my skin and closed my eyes.

I awoke not in the darkness with my victims but in a silent man-cage of steel.

2
marks

2. Which words show how confused the creature is after 'Man came'?

3
marks

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3. Why do you think the author chose to use the word '**darkness**' to refer to death?

2
marks

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4. Why do you think the author chose the verb '**prowled**' in the second line of the poem?

2
marks

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5. How does the author use contrast to tell the story of the creature?
Refer to the text in your answer.

3
marks

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Language Questions



6. Why do you think the author uses the word '**stripes**' when writing about the cage?

2
marks

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7. Why do you think the author writes about the '**Cold grey dust**' in the cage?

2
marks

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8. Why do you think there is a question mark in the title?

Answer the question as fully as you can, referring to the text where possible.

3
marks

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9. 'I searched for the roars of my brothers but was deceived by the rushing waterfalls.
I sought the scent of my brothers but was tricked by the smells of the wild.
I hunted for the sight of my brothers but was fooled by the stripes in the sunlit reeds.'

How do these lines affect the pace of the poem?

2
marks

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*Reading Raptors really love language questions.
How did you find the questions on these pages?*

