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POETRY






The Tale of Custard the Dragon

— Ogden Nash



'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' is a poem which highlights that the judgments we make about others on the basis of their superficial characteristics are not always correct. Belinda, a little girl, has pets. They include Ink, Blink, Mustard and Custard. Belinda and her pets have a poor opinion of Custard as they think him to be a coward. However, it is Custard who saves Belinda and her pets from attack of the pirate.

Topic Notes

-  Characters in Brief
-  Chapter in Detail
-  Poetic Devices
-  Learnings
-  Dictionary





Poem in Detail

Stanza – 1

*Belinda lived in a little white house,
 With a little black kitten and a little grey mouse,
 And a little yellow dog and a little red wagon,
 And a realio, trulio, little pet dragon.*

Interpretation

In this stanza, the poet introduced Belinda, a little girl who lives in a little white house with her pets. Belinda has a little black kitten, a little grey mouse, a little yellow dog, a little red wagon and a real and true dragon.

Stanza – 2

*Now the name of the little black kitten was Ink,
 And the little grey mouse, she called him Blink,
 And the little yellow dog was sharp as Mustard,
 But the dragon was a coward, and she called him Custard.*

Interpretation

In this stanza, the poet described the names of Belinda's pets. Her little black kitten was named Ink, the little grey mouse was named Blink, and the little yellow dog was named Mustard due to his sharp and bright yellow color. However, Belinda named her dragon Custard because he was a coward.

Stanza – 3

*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.*

Interpretation

In this stanza, the poet described the appearance of Custard the dragon. Custard was like any other dragon. He had big sharp teeth. There were spikes on his top while scales underneath. The poet had used simile to draw comparisons of the dragon with fireplace and chimneys. The poet said that Custard's mouth was fiery red and hot like a fireplace while his nose was like a big chimney that emitted huge warm breaths. His toe-nails were like daggers on his feet.

Stanza – 4

*Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears,
 And Ink and Blink chased lions down the stairs,
 Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage,
 But Custard cried for a nice safe cage.*

Interpretation

In this stanza, the poet described the characteristics of Belinda and her pets. Belinda was as brave as a

barrel full of bears. Her bravery was equal to that of several bears put together in a barrel. The kitten Ink and the mouse Blink were so courageous that they could even give a chase to the Lions. The dog Mustard was as brave as an angry tiger. However, the dragon Custard was a big coward. He looked for a nice safe cage where he could hide himself from everything which seemed dangerous.

Stanza – 5

*Belinda tickled him, she tickled 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.*

Interpretation

In this stanza, Belinda tickled Custard to make fun of him so much that it turned into cruelty. Her other pets bullied Custard by calling him Percival who was the legendary brave knight of King Arthur. Belinda and her other pets sat inside the little red wagon that Belinda had. All of them laughed at Custard as they thought him to be the most coward of them all.

Example 1. "Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful..." Why? [NCERT]

Ans. Belinda tickled the dragon to have fun and to tease him for his cowardice.

Stanza – 6

*Belinda giggled till she shook the house,
 And Blink said Weeck! which is giggling for a mouse,
 Ink and Mustard rudely asked his age,
 When Custard cried for a nice safe cage.*

Interpretation

In this stanza, Belinda laughed at the cowardice of Custard so loud that she shook the whole house with her big laughter. Blink the mouse laughed at Custard too. When Custard asked to live in a nice safe cage, the kitten Ink and the dog Mustard asked Custard about his age as they wanted to make fun of Custard by calling him a baby.

Stanza – 7

*Suddenly, suddenly they heard a nasty sound,
 And Mustard growled, and they all looked around.
 Meowch! cried Ink, and ooh! cried Belinda,
 For there was a pirate, climbing in the winda.*

Interpretation

In this stanza, one day when Belinda and her pets were playing together, they heard an evil, frightening sound to which they all looked around. Mustard, the dog sensed trouble so he growled. The kitten Ink

'meowed' and Belinda cried 'ooh' out of fear as they see a pirate climbing up the window of the house. Here, the poet had shown that the so-called brave Belinda and her pets turned out to be coward when faced with danger.

Stanza – 8

*Pistol in his left hand, pistol in his right,
 And he held in his teeth a cutlass bright,
 His beard was black, one leg was wood;
 It was clear that the pirate meant no good.*

Interpretation

In this stanza, the poet described the evil and frightening appearance of the pirate. The pirate had pistol in both of his hands. Between his teeth, he held a 'cutlass bright', i.e., a sword. His beard was black and he was crippled as one of his legs was of wood. The appearance of the pirate told that he had bad and evil intentions.

Stanza – 9

*Belinda paled, and she cried Help! Help!
 But Mustard fled with a terrified yelp,
 Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household,
 And little mouse Blink strategically mouseholed.*

Interpretation

In this stanza, when Belinda was frightened at the sight of the evil pirate, Mustard, the dog, ran away fearfully instead of saving her. The kitten Ink also cowardly ran to hide into the basement of the house. The mouse Blink was so scared that he hid inside the mousehole on seeing the pirate. Here, the poet had again highlighted the cowardice of Belinda and her pets who boasted of their bravery in front of Custard, the dragon.

Stanza – 10

*But up jumped Custard, snorting like an engine,
 Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon,
 With a clatter and a clank and a jangling squirm,
 He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm.*

Interpretation

In this stanza, the poet had revealed the bravery of Custard the dragon. When the other pets of Belinda hid themselves away from the pirate, Custard jumped upon him making big noise like an engine. He clashed his tail making a sound like the clashing iron chains in prison. Making sharp ringing sounds, he attacked the pirate in the same way as a Robin attacks a worm.

Stanza – 11

*The pirate gaped at Belinda's dragon,
 And gulped some grog from his pocket flagon,
 He fired two bullets, but they didn't hit,
 And Custard gobbled him, every bit.*

Interpretation

In this stanza, when Custard charged angrily at the pirate, the pirate got so scared that, he took out a bottle of wine from his pocket and gulped some of it to overcome his fear. But the pirate was so fearful that when he fired two shots at the dragon, none of it hit him. However, Custard bravely attacked the pirate and ate every bit of the pirate's body. Here, the poet showed that the dragon whom Belinda and her other pets looked down upon as a coward and bullied him, was actually the bravest of them all.

Stanza – 12

*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.*

Interpretation

In this stanza, Belinda hugged Custard to appreciate him for his bravery. Mustard the dog licked him with love. The kitten and mouse danced happily around Custard who was eating the body of the pirate, to show him their love. Nobody mourned for the pirate who was the victim of Custard's ferocious attacks.

Stanza – 13

*But presently up spoke little dog Mustard,
 I'd have been twice as brave if I hadn't been flustered.
 And up spoke Ink and up spoke Blink,
 We'd have been three times as brave, we think,
 And Custard said, I quite agree
 That everybody is braver than me.*

Interpretation

In this stanza, even after their cowardly behaviour, the cat, dog and mouse kept bragging about their bravery. Mustard, the dog said that he would have been twice as brave as Custard if he hadn't been agitated by the pirate. The cat and mouse too said that they would have been thrice as brave as Custard. While the other pets were shamelessly boasting of their false bravery, Custard modestly accepted that other pets were braver than him.

Stanza – 14

*Belinda still lives in her little white house,
 With her little black kitten and her little grey mouse,
 And her little yellow dog and her little red wagon,
 And her realio, trulio little pet dragon.*

Interpretation

In this stanza, the poet had revealed how after the fearful incident of the pirate breaking into the house, the lives of Belinda and her pets went back to normal. To show this, the poet had repeated stanza one which states that Belinda still lived in the same little white

house with her kitten, mouse, dog and dragon. She still owned that little red wagon.

Stanza – 15

*Belinda is as brave as a barrel full of bears,
 And Ink and Blink chase lions down the stairs,
 Mustard is as brave as a tiger in a rage,
 But Custard keeps crying for a nice safe cage.*

Interpretation

In this stanza, the poet had shown again that the story of Belinda's house was still the same even after Custard was proved to be the bravest of them all. The poet had again repeated stanza four here to show the similarity of the scenario after the scary incident of the pirate.

Example 2. Do you find 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' to be a serious or a light-hearted poem? Give reasons to support your answer. [NCERT]

Ans. The tale of Custard the dragon is a light-hearted ballad. How a dragon, being a coward, is made fun of by a kitten, a mouse and a dog, is all told in a humorous way.

Example 3. Extract Based:

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

*Belinda giggled till she shook the house,
 And Blink said Weeck! which is giggling for a mouse,
 Ink and Mustard rudely asked his age,
 When Custard cried for a nice safe cage.
 Suddenly, suddenly they heard a nasty sound,
 And Mustard growled, and they all looked around*
 [CBSE Question Bank 2021]

(A) What can you infer from the repetition 'suddenly, suddenly' in the above extract?

- (a) There was an immediate change in the scene.
- (b) It focuses on the hasty attack and the loud noise.
- (c) It emphasises that an unexpected noise was heard.
- (d) It draws our attention to the loud cry that occurred.

(B) A cage means captivity. Why is Custard inclined to remain in a cage despite what it symbolises? This is so because he viewed it as a:

- (1) sanctuary
- (2) guardhouse
- (3) cubicle
- (4) refuge
- (5) booth

- (a) (1), (2) & (5) (b) (1) & (4)
- (c) (3), (4) & (5) (d) (3) & (5)

(C) Why has the poet used the word 'weeck' to signify the giggling of the mouse? The poet:

- (a) uses it to add suspense in the poem.
- (b) has imagined how the mouse would sound in this mood.
- (c) has mocked at the mouse for giggling at Custard.
- (d) uses it to create a scary effect for readers.

(D) Pick the option with the correct matches for columns A and B.

A (Word)	B (Meaning)
(1) chuckle	(A) to smile in a half-suppressed moking way
(2) snigger	(B) to smile in an irritating, conceited manner
(3) smirk	(C) to let out a quiet and suppressed laugh
	(D) to let out a laugh heartily and loudly

- (a) (1)-(D), (2)-(A), (3)-(C)
- (b) (1)-(C), (2)-(A), (3)-(B)
- (c) (1)-(B), (2)-(D), (3)-(C)
- (d) (1)-(A), (2)-(C), (3)-(D)

(E) Which belief about dragons is in contrast to Custard's behaviour in the extract?

- (a) Dragons are brave and feared.
- (b) Dragons can grant wishes.
- (c) Dragons can become invisible at will.
- (d) Dragons are soft-hearted and kind.

Ans. (A) (c) It emphasises that an unexpected noise was heard.

Explanation: The repetition of the word 'suddenly' tells us that an unexpected noise was heard in the scene. Hence, (c) is the right answer.

(B) (b) (1) & (4)

Explanation: Custard viewed the cage as a (1) sanctuary and (4) refuge as it means a place of safety and haven. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

(C) (b) has imagined how the mouse would sound in this mood.

Explanation: 'Weeck' is the sound imagined by the poet for the mouse in fear. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

(D) (b) (1)-(C), (2)-(A), (3)-(B)

Explanation: Option (b) matches A to B correctly. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

(E) (a) *Dragons are brave and feared.*

Explanation: Usually, a dragon is always mighty, brave and is feared by people. But

Custard, the dragon was a coward and soft dragon who asked for a safe place to live. Hence, (a) is the right answer.

Poetic Devices

- Alliteration:** Alliteration is the repetitions of the same sound used in the beginning of the closely placed words.
 - Belinda lived in a little white house.*
 - Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears.*
 - And he held in his teeth a cutlass bright.*
 - With a clatter and a clank and a jangling squirm.*
 - And gulped some grog from his pocket flagon.*
- Repetition:** Repetition is a poetic device used to repeat single words, phrases or even stanzas at intervals, to create a musical effect in order to make the poem more appealing.
 - Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful.*
 - Suddenly, suddenly they heard a nasty sound.*
 - Pistol in his left hand, pistol in his right.*
- Metaphor:** Metaphor is a literary device used to represent a comparison without using the words "like" or "as".
 - chimney for a nose*
 - And realio, trulio daggers on his toes*
- Simile:** Simile is a poetic device used by the poet to draw a clear comparison between two or more things or people with the help of words 'like' and 'as'.
 - Mouth like a fireplace*
 - Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears.*
 - Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage.*
- Onomatopoeia:** This poetic device is used by the poet to describe the sounds produced with the help of the words. It uses the sound-descriptive words like 'hiss', 'bang', 'splash', etc.
 - And Blink said Weeck!*
 - Meowch! cried Ink, and ooh! cried Belinda.*
 - With a clatter and a clank and a jangling squirm.*
- Rhyme scheme:** The rhyme scheme of the poem is 'aabb'. However, for stanza 13, the rhyme scheme is aabbcc.

Learnings

- One must not judge people from their appearances or their claims.
- Appearances might be deceptive while claims may prove false.

Ab Dictionary

<i>Rage</i>	uncontrollable anger	temper, fury	calm, peace
<i>Nasty</i>	unpleasant	awful, bad	great, amazing
<i>Growled</i>	made a low noise	roared, snarled	whispered, murmured
<i>Dungeon</i>	underground cell	jail, prison	shelter, haven
<i>Embrace</i>	hug someone	cuddle, grab	shove, push
<i>Gyrate</i>	to revolve around	rotate, circle	steady, still
<i>Flustered</i>	agitated	rattled, confused	clear, focused

OBJECTIVE Type Questions

[1 mark]

Extract Based Questions

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Belinda paled, and she cried Help! Help!

But Mustard fled with terrified yelp,

Ink trickled down to the bottom of the householed,

And little mouse Blink strategically mousehold.

But up jumped Custard, snorting like an engine,

Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon,

With a clatter and a clank and a jangling squirm,

He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm.

[Delhi Gov. 2021]

- (A) Belinda cried for help because:
 (a) she grew afraid of her pets.
 (b) she was afraid of the pirate.
 (c) she was drowning.
 (d) she was afraid of the little mouse Blink.
- (B) Who came to rescue everyone in danger?
 (a) Ink (b) Custard
 (c) Blink (d) Mustard
- (C) The word 'dungeon' DOES NOT have a meaning similar to:
 (a) jail (b) cell
 (c) prison (d) park
- (D) "Belinda paled, and she cried Help! Help!"
 The exclamatory mark conveys:
 (a) a feeling of anticipation.
 (b) a feeling of excitement.
 (c) a feeling of sorrow.
 (d) some thoughtful moments.
- (E) The word that DOES NOT indicate fear-stricken Belinda is:
 (a) paled (b) cried
 (c) terrified (d) snorting

Ans. (A) (b) she was afraid of the pirates

Explanation: Belinda was scared of the pirate that broke into her house through the window so, she cried for help. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

(B) (b) Custard

Explanation: It's clear from the extract that when everybody was hiding from the pirates, it was Custard who rescued them by charging at the pirate like a snorting engine. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

(C) (d) park

Explanation: The word 'dungeon' means an underground cell. Options (a), (b) and (c) are all same as dungeon while (d) park isn't. Hence, (d) is the right answer.

(D) (a) a feeling of anticipation

Explanation: The exclamatory marks are used by the poet to show the feeling of anticipation by Belinda on looking at pirate. Hence, (a) is the right answer.

(E) (d) snorting

Explanation: The term snorting means to make a loud scary sound while options (a), (b) and (c) define fear-stricken Belinda. Hence, (d) is the right answer.

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household,

And little mouse Blink strategically mouseholed.


But up jumped Custard, snorting like an engine,

Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon,

With a clatter and a clank and a jangling squirm,

He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm

[CBSE Question Bank 2021]

- (A)  Which option lists the quotes that support the ideas in the extract?
 (1) Fear makes strangers of people who would be friends.
 (2) If you're brave enough to start, you're strong enough to finish.
 (3) Courage doesn't mean you don't get afraid. Courage means you don't let fear stop you.
 (4) You get in life what you have the courage to ask for.
 (5) Fear has a large shadow, but he himself is strong.
 (a) (1) & (5) (b) (2), (3) & (4)
 (c) (2) & (3) (d) (1), (3) & (5)
- (B) What is the poet's purpose of using the onomatopoeic words given in the extract?

- (a) It is to emphasize on the might and boldness of Custard.
- (b) It is to introduce the character Custard to the readers.
- (c) It is to impress upon the readers that Custard was ready.
- (d) It is to make Custard bold enough to face the situation.
- (C) Pick an option that best fits the usage of the word 'trickled' as used in the extract.
- (a) The water trickled down the tap and filled the trough.
- (b) Students trickled into the classroom as the teacher entered.
- (c) Tears trickled down her cheeks as she heard the sad news.
- (d) His enthusiasm for the task slowly trickled away.
- (D) Select the option that fits with the reaction of the characters in the context of the extract.
- Ink: terrified :: Blink : (i)
- Pirate: (ii) :: Custard: undaunted
- (a) (i) shocked (ii) displeased
- (b) (i) petrified (ii) wondered
- (c) (i) upset (ii) dazed
- (d) (i) petrified (ii) shocked
- (E) 'He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm. Why has this comparison been used here? Just like the robin catches the worm,
- (a) Custard attacked the pirate after careful observation.

- (b) Custard attacked the pirate without delay.
- (c) Custard attacked the pirate valourously.
- (d) Custard attacked the pirate stealthily.

Ans. (B) (a) It is to emphasize on the might and boldness of Custard.

Explanation: The poet has used the onomatopoeic words to show the might and bravery of Custard through the sounds emitting words. Hence, (a) is the right answer.

(C) (b) Students trickled into the classroom as the teacher entered.

Explanation: The word 'trickled' in the extract means to come/move slowly and gradually. Here, students get inside the classroom in a fearful manner. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

(D) (d) (i) petrified (ii) shocked

Explanation: Blink was 'petrified' to see the pirate while the pirate was 'shocked' to see Custard attacking him. Hence, (d) is the right answer.

(E) (b) Custard attacked the pirate without delay.

Explanation: A robin catches a worm suddenly without giving in any time. In the same way, after looking at the pirate, Custard charged at him all of a sudden. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

SUBJECTIVE Type Questions

Short Answer Type-I Questions (SA-I) [2 marks]

Answer the following questions in 20-30 words:

3. Custard humbly accepts that other animals are braver than him. Give a reason to support your stance that humility is a virtue worth possessing.

Ans. Humility is a wonderful human virtue. It makes a person humble and wiser. A person who has achieved something isn't required to boast about it as his hard work and success speaks for him.

4. What did Custard look like? [CBSE 2016]

Ans. Custard, the dragon, had big sharp teeth, spikes on top of him and scales underneath. His mouth was like a fireplace, his nose looked like a chimney, emitting smoke and daggers on his toes.

5. The poet could have included a burglar or an intruder in the poem, but chose to include a pirate. Explain this choice.

[CBSE Question Bank 2021]

Ans. The poet chose a pirate over any burglar or a thief because a pirate looks evil and nasty. The way his leg crippled as one of them was of wood, pistol in both of his hands and a cutlass between his teeth was scarier than a burglar.

6. The usage of words like 'realio trulio' creates a wonderful poetic effect. How?

Ans. The words 'realio trulio' are used by the poet to bring an amazing comic effect to the poem. The word 'realio' means 'really' while 'trulio' means 'truly'. These words add humor to the poem.

7. ② How brave were Belinda's other pets according to her?

8. Why is it fair to say that Custard could be the 'poster-boy' for the belief that the real nature of a person is revealed at times of the greatest difficulty?

Ans. It is true that the nature of the person is revealed at the times of greatest difficulty. Custard could be the best example for the same. Although Custard was believed to be the most coward of all the pets, he proved himself to be the bravest of them all when the pirate broke in.

9. ② With what has the poet compared Custard's nose and why?

10. State the reason you think the poet named the animals Ink, Blink, Mustard and Custard?

Ans. The poet named the animals aptly. He named the little kitten as Ink as he was black, the mouse as Blink as he was small, the dog as Mustard as he was of a bright yellow colour and the dragon as Custard as he was a soft and timid creature.

Short Answer Type-II Questions (SA-II) [3 marks]

Answer the following questions in 40-50 words:

11. Belinda shares a post on Instagram with the following hashtags

#Ink#Blink#Mustard#Bravehearts#My family#My world#

She doesn't mention Custard in her post.

As a friend of Belinda, what would be your advice to her and why?

[CBSE Question Bank 2021]

Ans. If Belinda forgets to mention Custard in her post on Instagram then as her friend her, I would advise her to definitely include Custard in it because he proved himself to be the bravest of all her pets. Even if he wouldn't have been able to do so, she should have definitely included him in the post because all the pets should be equal in the eyes of the owner. No one should be left out to show appreciation or love.

12. How do the other pets celebrate Custard getting rid of the pirate?

Ans. When Custard successfully destroyed the pirate, Belinda embraced him. The other pets too celebrated his victory. Mustard, the dog licked him, Ink, the cat and Blink, the mouse danced around him in circles. They showed their love and appreciation to him in their own ways.

13. Blowing one's trumpet is a well-known idiom.

Disagree with a friend's opinion in the context of this idiom.

Friend: It's important to recount your achievements whenever there's an opportunity.

People need to know about your qualities, accomplishments and awards. Always project yourself as superior.

You: Gosh! I disagree. What's the point blowing one's own trumpet? You see,

.....(continue).

Ans. You: Gosh! I disagree. What's the point in blowing one's own trumpet? You see if a person has achieved something, then it isn't required for him/her to tell tales of his/her own success. His/her hard work, success and development will tell about his/her struggle and achievements on their own. Humility and modesty are very valuable assets for a person to grow.

14. Describe the pirate who comes through the window?

Ans. The pirate who invaded the house through the window was crippled due to a wooden leg. His beard was black. He had a pistol each in both of his hands and he held a cutlass in his teeth. The appearance of the pirate was so frightful and evil. It looked like he had no good intentions.

15. ② The poem is a light-hearted ballad with a powerful message. If the poem was written in any other style, do you think it would have created the same effect on readers? Justify your response with reason(s).

Long Answer Type Questions (LA)

[5 marks]

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words:

16. Custard was discriminated against, bullied and made fun of. Such behaviour often has a disastrous impact on the victims and etches a permanent scar on their minds.

Write opinions of Wanda and Mandela on this issue.

Wanda: In my personal opinion,
(continue)

Nelson Mandela: I strongly believe that
(continue)

Ans. Wanda: In my opinion, bullying and teasing can leave a person depressed for life. One might never get his/her self-confidence back.

The mocking which seems fun to the doer might destroy the victim's positive mindset. The world is full of evil people.

Nelson Mandela: I strongly believe that nobody on this planet is born full of hate. It's just the surroundings that make a person bad. However, you are absolutely right that even a small instance of evil oppression or hatred against anyone might leave them scared for life.

Wanda: Yes sir. I hope people someday will understand this and try to make this world a better place to live.

- 17. Being impressed by Custard's feat, the young seagull's sister wrote a letter to Custard seeking advice on addressing the situation with her young brother. Write Custard's response to this letter. Base the advice from his experiences.**

You may begin like this:

Dear Ms. Seagull

Thank you for seeking me out. I'm humbled. Based on my limited experiences, I feel...

Ans. Dear Ms. Seagull

Thank you for seeking me out. I'm humbled. Based on my limited experiences, I feel that what a human actually possesses in him can only be proven at the times of utmost difficulty. In my case, not only Belinda and the other pets

took me as a coward, but also I was unaware of my own courage. It was only when I saw Belinda crying for help on the sight of a pirate breaking in; I knew that I had to do it at any cost. So, I without thinking, I charged at the pirate with all my strength. Similarly, I believe that when your younger brother will face such a situation where he would be left with no choice but to fly, he would definitely take the plunge. He was too unaware of the courage he had in himself like me. But, he would soon prove himself to everyone.

- 18. Describe the incident that showed that the pet who was considered the most coward was actually the bravest of them all?**

Ans. In the poem, when the other pets ran away petrified at the sight of the pirate breaking in, Custard charged angrily at him. The pirate got so scared of the dragon that to overcome his fear, he took out a bottle of wine from his pocket and gulped some of it. He even fired two shots at the dragon, none of which hit him. However, Custard bravely attacked the pirate and ate every bit of his body. This incident of Custard saving everyone from the pirate, showed that the dragon whom Belinda and her other pets looked down upon as a coward and bullied him, was actually the bravest of them all.

