

ENGLISH

CHAPTER 8: FOG

LANGUAGE
COURSES



FOG

~Summary~

-by Carl Sandburg**Stanza- 1**

The fog comes
on little cat feet.
It sits looking
over harbour and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.

Explanation: This short poem is an expression of the view of fog. For the poet, fog is not just a natural phenomenon, it is rather a creature. Fog has been compared with a cat as the way fog comes, is very similar to the ways of a cat. As a cat walks silently on its small feet, the fog also comes in the same manner, as if trying to avoid any attention. Fog's presence over and around a city seems as if a cat is sitting silently on its haunches and looking over the harbour and the city. Finally, when fog leaves a city, it looks like a cat's slow and silent steps moving on from a place.

Conclusion of Fog

This very small poem is describing nature's act in a beautiful manner.



NCERT SOLUTION

Questions (Page No. 115)

(THINKING ABOUT THE POEM)

Question 1:

- i. What does Sandburg think the fog is like?
- ii. How does the fog come?
- iii. What does 'it' in the third line refer to?
- iv. Does the poet actually say that the fog is like a cat? Find three things that tell us that the fog is like a cat.

Answer:

1. According to Carl Sandburg, the fog appears like a cat.
2. The fog comes silently like a cat on its little feet.
3. In the third line, the term 'it' refers to the fog that has covered the city like a thick blanket and it seemed to look over the city like a cat.
4. No, the poet didn't wish to convey the fog looked like a cat. He used the cat as a metaphor to describe the onset of the fog that covers the city. Here are some lines that describe it:
5. The fog comes silently on its little cat feet.
6. It looks over the harbour and city like a cat.
7. Just like a cat, it sits on silent haunches and watches over the city.

Question 2: You know that a metaphor compares two things by transferring a feature of one thing to the other (See Unit 1).

(i) Find metaphors for the following words and complete the table below.

Storm	tiger	pounces over the fields, growls
Train		
Fire		
School		
Home		

Also try to say how they are alike. The first is done for you.



(ii) Think about a storm. Try to visualise the force of the storm, hear the sound of the storm, feel the power of the storm and the sudden calm that happens afterwards. Write a poem about the storm comparing it with an animal.

Answer:

(i)

Storm	tiger	pounces over the fields, growls
Train	wind	moves swiftly with a rushing sound
Fire	sun	full of light and energy
School	temple	teaches moral values and virtues of life
Home	nest	provides hospitable and comfortable shelter to live with near and dear ones

(ii) Activity to be done by yourself.

(Note: Students can write this answer as per their personal experiences.)

Question 3: Does this poem have a rhyme scheme? Poetry that does not have an obvious rhythm or rhyme is called 'free verse'.

Answer: No, this poem does not have a rhyme scheme as the sentences do not have rhyme-like sounds. It is written in free verse that has no set pattern of rhyming words towards the end of each sentence.