

# F3L58-LITERATURE IN ACTION POEM - WHAT IS RED? (REVISION)

Read the poem and notes below.



Red is a sunset  
Blazing and bright  
Red is feeling brave  
With all your might.  
Red is a sunburn  
Spot on your nose.  
Sometimes red  
Is a red red rose  
Red squiggles out  
When you cut your hand.  
Red is a brick  
And the sound of a band.  
Red is hotness  
You get inside  
When you're embarrassed  
And want to hide.  
Fire-cracker, fire-engine  
Fire-flicker red-



And when you're angry  
Red runs through your head.  
Red is an Indian,  
A Valentine heart.  
The trimmings on  
A circus cart.  
Red is a lipstick  
Red is a shout  
Red is a signal  
That says: "Watch out!"  
Red is a great big  
Rubber ball.  
Red is the greatest  
Colour of all.  
Red is a show-off,  
No doubt about it –  
But can you imagine  
Living without it

## Meaning of the poem

The poem talks of the colour, red, and the things that are red in colour or are associated with red. When we look at certain elements of nature like sunset and flowers, we see the colour red. Red is associated with certain human feelings like embarrassment, anger and the feeling of being courageous. Common things in our surroundings and which relate to our senses of sight, touch and hearing are either red or tinged with red like firecrackers, fire-engine, fire and lipstick. A native American is called a Red Indian and so is a heart which is in love. A circus cart is decorated with red bunting. One's face turns red when one shouts and road signs to give warnings of danger are symbolically red. The colour red is impressive and widely used and it looks proud. It maybe a colour of show off but it's hard to imagine living without it

## Setting

1. The poem is set broadly in an every day environment.
2. No specific place or time frame is mentioned.

## Themes

1. Colours bring flavour to the world
2. Alertness and keen observation of surroundings
3. Red is the warmest of all colours
4. Interdependence of nature, people and objects around us

## Moral Values

1. We must appreciate the colours that exist in our life.
2. We must value our environment and nature.
3. We should be alert of our surroundings and what they offer.
4. We should have a positive attitude in our daily life.

## Structure, Style, and Language

1. The language is descriptive, simple, and easy to understand.
2. Has one stanza with 36 lines.
3. Each line has just about 2 to 4 words. □
4. Rhyme scheme : abcb

## Literary Devices

1. **Imagery** - 'Red is the giantest' - signifies that red is so widely used, can be seen almost everywhere.
2. **Rhetorical question** - 'But can you imagine, Living without it ?'
3. **Repetition** - The word 'red' is repeated 18 times throughout the poem
4. **Alliteration** - 'Is a red red rose' ; 'Blazing and bright'
5. **Assonance** - 'Spot on your nose' ; 'Living without it ?'

## Tone and Mood

1. Wonder and amazement
2. Direct and relective
3. All-knowing and accepting
4. Jovial

Answer the following questions.

1. Choose the things stated in the poem

2. What feeling does red express?

3. What happens when one is angry?

4. What happens when you cut your hand?

5. Name one red thing that is not mentioned in the poem.

6. In your opinion, what can we do to reduce negativity in life?

7. State two messages you get from the poem.