

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 giantest
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 buntings. 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 selective
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.