

First Flight

“Poetry”

Syllabus and Marks Distribution (2025-26)

First Flight—Poetry **12**

(a) One out of two extracts from the poems prescribed to test comprehension and appreciation with 1 Multiple Choice Question and 2 Short Answer Type Questions. **5**

(b) Two out of three Short Answer Type Questions on interpretations of themes and ideas contained in the poems to be answered in about 20–30 words each. **4**

(c) One out of two Long Answer Type Questions on interpretations of themes and ideas contained in the poems to be answered in about 60 words. **3**

(Theme and Central Idea of all the Poems)

Dust of Snow

- Robert Frost

Theme of the Poem:

The poem shows that **small things in nature can bring big changes in our mood and thoughts**. Even a tiny event, like snow falling from a tree, can make us feel better and more positive. It teaches us to look for **hope and happiness** in small moments.

Central Idea of the Poem:

The poet was having a **bad day**, but when a **crow shook snow** from a hemlock tree onto him, it **changed his mood**. That small act made him feel happy and saved the rest of his day. The poem tells us that **nature has the power to heal and refresh us**, even in simple ways.

Fire and Ice

- Robert Frost

Theme of the Poem "Fire and Ice":

The poem talks about the end of the world. The poet compares two strong feelings – **desire** (like fire) and **hatred** (like ice) – and says that both can destroy the world. The theme shows how human emotions like **greed, anger, and hate** are powerful enough to bring destruction.

Central Idea of the Poem "Fire and Ice":

The central idea is that the world can end either by fire (desire and passion) or by ice (hatred and coldness). Both are dangerous and can lead to destruction. The poet wants us to understand how harmful our negative emotions can be.

How to Tell Wild Animals

- Carolyn Wells

Theme of the Poem "How to Tell Wild Animals":

The theme of the poem is **humorous and informative**. The poet describes various wild animals in a funny way, using jokes and rhymes to help us recognize them. It mixes fun with learning about nature and animals.

Central Idea of the Poem:

The poem tells us **how to identify wild animals** like the tiger, lion, leopard, bear, and crocodile in a playful and silly way. The poet uses humor and imagination to explain what might happen if you meet these animals. The main idea is to entertain the reader while teaching something about wild animals.

A Tiger in the Zoo

- Leslie Norris

Theme of the Poem:

The poem shows the difference between a tiger in the wild and a tiger in the zoo. It talks about the **pain of animals kept in cages**. The poet wants to show that wild animals like tigers should live freely in their natural homes, not locked in zoos.

Central Idea of the Poem:

The poem tells us about a tiger that is kept in a zoo. It cannot move freely and feels helpless behind the bars. The poet compares this with how the tiger would live happily and freely in the jungle. The poem makes us feel sorry for the tiger and makes us think about **animal freedom and protection of wildlife**.

The Ball Poem

- John Berryman

Theme of the Poem: The theme of "*The Ball Poem*" is **loss and growing up**. The poem shows how everyone faces loss in life, especially as they grow older. It teaches that we must learn to accept loss and move on, because that is a part of life.

Central Idea of the Poem: The poem is about a boy who loses his ball. At first, he feels very sad and helpless. But the poem is not just about losing a toy — it's about understanding that things we love can be lost, and we must learn to handle such moments on our own. The central idea is that **life is full of ups and downs, and we grow stronger by facing these challenges**.

Amanda!

-Robin Klein

Theme of the Poem "Amanda":

The poem *Amanda* is about a little girl who is always being scolded by her mother for small things like sitting properly, not biting nails, or finishing her homework. The main theme is how too much control and nagging can affect a child's imagination and freedom. Amanda wants to escape from this world and imagines herself in peaceful and magical places.

Central Idea of the Poem "Amanda":

The central idea of the poem is that children need love, care, and freedom to grow. The poet shows how Amanda feels irritated and dreams of a calm life away from all rules. Through Amanda's daydreams, the poet tells us that parents should not always control or scold children, but also understand their feelings and give them space.

The Trees

-Adrienne Rich:

Theme of the Poem "The Trees":

The main theme of the poem is **freedom and self-expression**. The trees in the poem are a symbol for people (especially women) who want to break free from restrictions and live freely in the natural world. It shows the **struggle to escape** from a life that feels closed or artificial.

Central Idea of the Poem "The Trees":

The poem tells us that just like trees want to move out of the closed room and go back to the forest, **people also wish to break free from confinement** and return to a more natural and free life. The poet shows how everything in nature, including humans, wants to grow, move, and live with freedom. It also talks about **inner strength and silent rebellion**.

Fog

- Carl Sandburg

Theme of the poem "Fog":

The theme of the poem is **nature's quiet and mysterious beauty**. The poet shows how **fog comes silently and slowly**, just like a **cat**. It stays for a while and then moves away. The poem also shows that **nature works in its own quiet and calm way**.

Central Idea of the poem "Fog":

The central idea of the poem is that **fog is like a cat** – it comes quietly, sits without making noise, and then leaves silently. The poet uses the cat as a symbol to describe how the fog moves and behaves. The poem teaches us to **observe and appreciate the small and quiet moments of nature**.

The Tale of Custard the Dragon

- Ogden Nash

Theme:

The main theme of the poem is **bravery and real courage**. It shows that **true courage is seen in action, not in words**. Even someone who looks scared can be brave when it really matters.

Central Idea:

The poem tells the story of a dragon named Custard who is made fun of by others for being a coward. But when a real danger comes, Custard is the only one who fights bravely and saves everyone. The poem teaches us not to judge others by their looks or behavior, because **real heroes may be the ones we least expect**.

For Anne Gregory

- William Butler Yeats

Theme of the Poem: "For Anne Gregory"

The poem talks about the **difference between outer beauty and inner beauty**. It shows that people often fall in love with someone because of their physical looks, like the color of their hair or face. But true love should be for a person's **character, heart, and soul**, not just their appearance.

Central Idea of the Poem: "For Anne Gregory"

The poet tells Anne Gregory that many people will love her for her **beautiful golden hair**, but not for who she really is. Anne says she could change her hair color to black or brown to test if someone loves her truly. The poet concludes by saying that only **God** can love someone for their **true self**, not just their looks.