

SAINIK SCHOOL GOPALGANJ

Chapter: The Tale of Custard the Dragon

1. Read the extracts and answer the questions that follow in a line or two:

(i) Now the name of the litde black kitten was Ink, And the little gray mouse, she called her Blink, And the little yellow dog was sharp as Mustard,
But the dragon was a coward, and she called him Custard.

- (a) What is the colour of Belinda's dog?
- (b) What were the kitten and the mouse called?
- (c) Which word in the stanza means "fear easily"?
- (d) 'Blink' here is the name of a mouse but what actually the word means?

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

- (a) Why did Belinda cry for help?
- (b) What did Mustard, Ink and Blink do?
- (c) Name the rhyme scheme of the stanza.
- (d) Which poetic device is used in the stanza?

(iii) 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.

- (a) How brave were the Kitten and the mouse?
- (b) Why did Custard cry for a nice safe cage?
- (c) Which word is similar to "anger"?
- (d) Which figure of speech has been used in the first and the third line of the stanza.

2. Answer these questions in not more than 30 words:

- (i) What did Custard look like?
- (ii) Describe the bravery of everyone in the house. Was everyone really as brave as they claimed?
- (iii) Do you find 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' to be a serious or a light-hearted comedy? Give reasons to support your answer.
- (iv) Is there a hidden message that the poet is wishing to convey or do you think that entertainment is the sole purpose of writing this poem?
- (v) Why did Custard accept his cowardice and bravery of other animals?

3. Answer the question in 100-120 words:

(i) The dragon, custard was considered a coward. The humble dragon proved his bravery in adversity. Analyse that certain qualities like bravery and courage are situational and spontaneous. Express your views with reference to the poem.

(ii) 'Bravery is a natural and spontaneous attribute.' Write a paragraph with reference to the poem.
