

# **The Tale of Custard the Dragon**

## **Summary**

The tale of custard the dragon is a ballad. It is a humorous poem about a cowardly dragon named custard. Custard is a pet of Belinda, a little girl who lives in a little white house with her pets. She had a black kitten named ink, a grey mouse named blink, a yellow dog mustard and a cowardly dragon custard. The poet says that all of them are very brave except the dragon. Others were described as brave and are compared with animals like bear, tiger or lion but the dragon is very timid. He always demands a safe place for himself. All the other characters make fun of him. But one night they are surprised by the entry of a pirate in the house. All of them get frightened and start hiding here and there. But to everyone's surprise, the dragon not only tackles him but also eats him up. As all of them are saved by custard, they thank him. But at the end, they realize that they used to make fun of the dragon because of his being timid. So, all of them suddenly start saying that they are more brave and could have handled the situation in a much better way. Here the poet has tried to say that sometimes a timid person is the actual hero in the toughest situations of life.

## **Thinking about the Poem:**

**Q1-** Who are the characters in this poem? List them with their pet names.

Ans: Following are the characters of the poem:

- i) A little girl named Belinda.
- ii) A little black kitten whose name is ink.
- iii) A little grey mouse named blink.
- iv) A dog named mustard because he is yellow in colour.
- v) A coward dragon whose name is Custard.

**Q2.** Why did Custard cry for a nice safe cage?

Ans: Custard cried for a nice safe cage though it was very powerful and ferocious because it was thought to be a coward and fearful dragon.

**Q3.** Why is the dragon called cowardly dragon?

Ans: The dragon is called the cowardly dragon because it behaves cowardly and in a childish manner and always cries for a nice safe cage for its safety and protection.

**Q4.** "Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful..." Why?

Ans: Belinda tickled him unmercifully because custard the dragon was thought to be a coward. It always demanded a safe cage. That is why all of them made fun of him.

**Q5.** Do you find "The Tale of Custard the Dragon" a serious or a funny poem? Give reasons in support of your answer.

### **Learning about the Literary Device/s**

**Q1.** What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?

Ans: The poem is written in the form of quatrains. The rhyme scheme of each quatrain is aabb.

**Q2.** Pick out the lines from the poem that contains similes.

Ans: The lines containing similes are:

- a) And the little yellow dog was sharp as Mustard.
- b) Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears.
- c) Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage.
- d) Mouth like a fireplace, chimney for a nose.
- e) But up jumped Custard, snorting like an engine.
- f) Clashed his tail like iron in a dungeon.
- g) He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm.

**Q3.** What images does the poet use in the poem?

Ans: A few images used by the poet in the poem are:

- Mouth like a fireplace.
- Chimney for a nose.
- Daggers on Custard's toes.

**Q4.** Which line of stanza is used as a refrain in the poem?

Ans: And realio, trulio, little per dragon