



# How to Tell Wild Animals





## About the Poet



**Carolyn Wells (1862-1942) was an American writer who was famous for books based on mystery. Her famous works are at the sign of the Sphinx (1896), The Jingle book (1899), the story of Betty (1899) etc.**







## **How to Tell Wild Animals Poem Introduction**



**In the poem, the poet has explained the characteristics of various wild animals in a very funny way. She has used language in a way that it generates humour. She is introducing the reader to various kinds of wild animals like Asian lion, Bengal tiger, bear, etc.explaining each of the animals in a very humorous way.**







## **How to Tell Wild Animals Summary of the poem**



**The poet is describing the various wild animals. These animals are very dangerous and she has introduced them one by one in a very funny way. First of all she tells us about an Asian lion. She says that if you are visiting the jungles of the east and there you see an animal which has tawny skin and he roars so loudly that you will die out of fear. This means that you have seen an Asian lion. Next in the line is the Bengal tiger that she has explained to be a royal animal that at once attacks and kills a man. She says by adding humour that if this beautiful black striped animal kills you and eats you, then you have surely met a Bengal tiger.**







## **How to Tell Wild Animals Summary of the poem**



**After this, she says that if the reader met an animal that has black spotted skin and it at once jumps on him, then it means that the reader has met a leopard. Moreover, she says that if one will cry out in pain, it maybe of no use as the leopard will not stop attacking him. Then she moves on to the bear that she says will hug very tightly. This is the way to recognize a bear as it kills a person by hugging him very tightly. So, she says that the bear will continue to hug us tightly and that is the only way to recognize him. After this, she asks a question to the readers that do they know how to recognize beasts that hunt their prey. Here she explains about hyenas which she thinks have a smiling face and the crocodiles that have tears in their eyes.**







## **How to Tell Wild Animals Summary of the poem**



**This can be seen when they are killing their prey. The last one in the list is the Chameleon. She says that it is a lizard – like creature which doesn't have ears and wings just like a lizard. Only this can help you differentiate between a lizard and chameleon. She further says that the chameleon has a quality of changing its color according to the colour of the surface. So, to explain this she says that if the reader looks at the tree and if he can only see the tree, this means that there is a chameleon sitting on it which has already turned its color to brown just like the branch of the tree.**







## **How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation**



**If ever you should go by chance  
To jungles in the east;  
And if there should to you advance  
A large and tawny beast,  
If he roars at you as you're dyin'  
You'll know it is the Asian Lion...**







# How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation







## **How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation**



**Tawny: yellowish brown color**

**The poet is telling the readers that how they can recognize various animals in the jungles of the east. So, in first stanza she says that if the reader comes across an animal whose skin is yellowish brown in colour and if it roars at him so strongly that he can die out of fear, it means that he has encountered an Asian Lion. She has humorously explained the Asian Lion which could kill a person with its roar.**







# How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation



## Literary Devices

**Rhyme:** Rhyme scheme ababcc is followed (chance-advance, east-beast, dyin-lion)

**Enjambment:** Continuation of a sentence to the next line (and if there.....tawny beast)

**Assonance:** use of vowel sound 'o' (you should go, should to you, roars,)

**Allusion:** Reference to a famous thing, place, species of animal, etc (Asian Lion)







# **How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation**



**Or if some time when roaming round,**

**A noble wild beast greets you,**

**With black stripes on a yellow ground,**

**Just notice if he eats you.**

**This simple rule may help you learn**

**The Bengal Tiger to discern.**







# How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation







# How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation



**Word meanings**

**Noble:** high born, aristocratic

**Discern:** recognize

She explains an animal that roams in the jungle and belongs to a royal clan. The colour of its skin is yellowish with black stripes. She says that if you notice that he kills you and eats you up, then this means that you have surely seen a Bengal Tiger. This time also she has used dark humour to explain how a tiger looks like because once a person has been eaten up by a wild animal, there is no use in determining which wild animal it is.







# How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation



## Literary Devices

**Rhyme:** Rhyme scheme ababcc is followed (round-ground, you-you learn-discern)

**Alliteration:** repetition of consonant sound 'r' at start of two or more closely connected words (roaming round)

**Allusion:** Reference to a famous thing, place, species of animal, etc (Bengal Tiger)

**Assonance:** Use of vowel sound 'o' (or if some time when roaming round)







## **How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation**



**If strolling forth, a beast you view,  
Whose hide with spots is peppered,  
As soon as he has lept on you,  
You'll know it is the Leopard.  
'Twill do no good to roar with pain,  
He'll only lep and lep again.**







# How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation







# How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation



**Word meanings**

**Strolling:** walking casually

**Forth:** forward

**Hide:** skin of animal

**Peppered:** Here it means the spots

**Lept (Leapt):** jump towards someone







## **How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation**



**The poet says that if you are casually walking in a jungle, you will meet an animal who has a skin with spots on it. This animal is so fast that it will leap on you at once which means that it will jump on you. This jumping is an indication that it is none other than the Leopard. Moreover, she adds that if you will cry out in pain, it is not going to be of any use as it will keep on jumping on you. So, in this stanza the poet has explained the characteristic of a leopard.**







# How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation



## Literary Devices

**Rhyme:** Rhyme scheme ababcc is followed (view- you, peppered- Leopard, pain-again)

**Alliteration:** use of consonant sound 'h' in the beginning of two words (he has)

**Poetic license:** A liberty to the poet to change the spellings in order to create rhyme or rhythm in a poem (use of lept instead of leapt)

**Repetition:** use of 'lep' word in the last line.

**Assonance:** use of vowel sound 'o' (strolling-forth-you, whose-spot, do no good to roar)

**Consonance:** use of 'l' sound (he'll only lep lep)







## **How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation**



**If when you're walking round your yard**

**You meet a creature there,**

**Who hugs you very, very hard,**

**Be sure it is a Bear.**

**If you have any doubts, I guess**

**He'll give you just one more caress.**







# How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation







# How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation



## Word meanings

**Yard:** backyard or the lawn area of a house

**Caress:** A gentle touch

If you are walking in the lawn area of your house and you meet a creature which hugs you tightly, it is a bear. She further adds that if you are still in doubt regarding the animal, the easiest way is that he will keep hugging and touching you very gently. This act of his will make you sure about its identity. You will come to know that it is a bear.







# How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation



## Literary Devices

**Rhyme:** Rhyme scheme ababcc is followed (yard-hard, there- bear, guess-caress)

**Enjambment:** Continuation of a sentence to the next line (if you were walking....creature there)

**Alliteration:** use of 'w' sound (when-walking), use of 'h' sound (who- hugs), use of 'b' sound (be-bear)

**Assonance:** use of vowel 'e' (meet a creature there)







## **How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation**



**Though to distinguish beasts of prey**

**A novice might nonplus,**

**The Crocodile you always may**

**Tell from the Hyena thus:**

**Hyenas come with merry smiles;**

**But if they weep they're Crocodiles**







# How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation







# How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation







# How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation



**Word meanings**

**Distinguish: Differentiate**

**Beast of Prey: Any animals that hunts other animals for food**

**Novice: Someone new to a job**

**Nonplus: be confused**

**The poet says that for someone who is new to the job of recognizing animals, it will be like a puzzle to recognize animals that hunt other animals for their food. So here the poet tries to help out the readers by telling the difference between two animals. He says that Hyenas will be smiling whereas if it is a crocodile, it is always in tears. Both of these animals are dangerous.**







# How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation



## Literary Devices

**Rhyme:** Rhyme scheme ababcc is followed (prey-may, nonplus-thus, smiles-crocodiles)

**Alliteration:** use of consonant sound 'n' (novice-nonplus), use of 'th' sound (the-thus)

**Enjambment:** continuation of sentence to the next line (though to distinguish....might nonplus,

The crocodile.....hyena thus)







# How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation



**The true Chameleon is small,**

**A lizard sort of thing;**

**He hasn't any ears at all,**

**And not a single wing.**

**If there is nothing on the tree,**

**'Tis the chameleon you see.**







# How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation







## **How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation**



**The poet says that the next is Chameleon which is a small creature. It looks like a lizard but the difference between the two is that chameleon does not have ears and wings. Moreover she says that chameleon has the ability to change its color according to the surface on which it is sitting. Therefore, if you see a tree and find nothing else on it, then it must be a chameleon sitting on it. It has changed its colour into the color of tree.**







# How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation



## Literary Devices

**Rhyme:** Rhyme scheme ababcc is followed (small-all, thing-wing, tree-see)

**Alliteration:** use of 'h' sound (he hasn't)

**Consonance:** use of 'g' sound (single wing)







Thank You !

