

talk
to
me!

LET'S TALK EMPOWERMENT. LET'S TALK ENGLISH

Beehive
9: The Snake Trying
by
W.W.E. Ross

1. Summary

This is a very simple poem about a harmless small, green snake lying on the sand, until it was seen by somebody. That person was obviously scared of it and felt that it could harm him. So he tried to chase it and hit it with a stick. The snake moved quickly through the water to escape from being beaten. The poet hoped that the snake would be able to glide away in the water and hide in the reeds without being hurt. Since the reeds are green, they are a good camouflage for the snake. So he will be difficult to find.

The poet feels pity for the snake. He is trying to tell us not to hurt any creature which is harmless.

Watch this video to learn more about non venomous snakes. Click on the link below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7dcAYR_a6aw

2. Vocabulary

1. **Pursuing** – chasing
The policeman was **pursuing** the chain snatcher.
2. **Curvings** – following a curved line (poetic usage)
3. **Graceful** – moving in a smooth, relaxed, and attractive way, or having a smooth attractive shape
When Rita danced everyone admired her **graceful** movements.
4. **Glides** – slides, flies
The paper plane **glided** gracefully though the air.

5. **Stroke** – in this case, means the hit of the stick
The student ran away from the **stroke** of the bad tempered teacher's cane.
6. **Observed** – saw
I **observed** that my sister was looking very tired, so I brought her a glass of water.
7. **Vanishes** – disappears
The black cat **vanished** into the dark night.
8. **Ripples** – small waves
The breeze created **ripples** in the pond.
9. **Slim** – thin
The **slim** girl easily squeezed through the gap and entered the room.
10. **Reeds** – tall grasses with thin stems that grow in wet areas.
Many water birds make their nests among the **reeds**.

3. Questions

- I.
1. **What is the snake trying to escape from?**
2. **Is it a harmful snake? What is its colour?**
3. **The poet finds the snake beautiful. Find the words he uses to convey its beauty.**
4. **What does the poet wish for the snake?**
5. **Where was the snake before anyone saw it and chased it away?
Where does the snake disappear?**

II.

1. **Find out as much as you can about different kinds of snake (from books in the library, or from the Internet). Are they all poisonous? Find out the names of some poisonous snakes.**
2. **Look for information on how to find out whether a snake is harmful.**
3. **As you know, from the previous lesson you have just read, there are people in our country who have traditional knowledge about snakes, who even catch poisonous snakes with practically bare hands. Can you find out something more about them?**

4. Literary devices

1. **Rhyme scheme of the poem:** There is no rhyme scheme. The poem is written in free verse.
2. **Alliteration:** the repetition of a consonant sound in 2 or more consecutive or closely placed words.

he is harmless – ‘h’ sound is repeated