

Poetry Comprehension: The Owl and the Pussycat

The Owl and the Pussy-cat went to sea
In a beautiful pea green boat,
They took some honey, and plenty of money,
Wrapped up in a five pound note.
The Owl looked up to the stars above,
And sang to a small guitar,
'O lovely Pussy! O Pussy my love,
What a beautiful Pussy you are,
You are,
You are!
What a beautiful Pussy you are!'

Pussy said to the Owl, 'You elegant fowl!
How charmingly sweet you sing!
O let us be married! too long we have tarried:
But what shall we do for a ring?'
They sailed away, for a year and a day,
To the land where the Bong-tree grows
And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood
With a ring at the end of his nose,
His nose,
His nose,
With a ring at the end of his nose.

Dear pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling
Your ring?' Said the Piggy, 'I will.'
So they took it away, and were married next day
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.
They dined on mince, and slices of quince,
Which they ate with a runcible spoon;
and hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,
They danced by the light of the moon,
The moon,
The moon,
they danced by the light of the moon.

Edward Lear



1. Why might the Owl have looked up to the stars while singing to the Pussycat?
 - A) To admire the night sky.
 - B) To impress the Pussycat with his knowledge of astronomy.
 - C) To create a romantic atmosphere while expressing his feelings.
 - D) To avoid eye contact with the Pussycat.

2. What can be inferred about the relationship between the Owl and the Pussycat before they set sail?
 - A) They had just met each other.
 - B) They had been in love for a long time but had delayed their marriage.
 - C) They were forced to sail together by circumstance.
 - D) They were business partners before becoming romantically involved.

3. Why does the Pussycat suggest getting married "too long we have tarried"?
 - A) The Pussycat feels pressured by society's expectations.
 - B) The Pussycat believes they have waited too long and should act on their love.
 - C) The Pussycat is worried about their journey and wants to marry quickly.
 - D) The Pussycat is afraid they will never find a ring.

4. What might the journey "for a year and a day" to the land where the Bong-Tree grows symbolise?
 - A) A search for wealth.
 - B) The passage of time and the commitment to their relationship.
 - C) A meaningless adventure with no purpose.
 - D) A quest to find something they have lost.

5. Why do you think the Piggy-wig agrees to sell his ring for just one shilling?
 - A) The Piggy-wig values the money more than the ring.
 - B) The Piggy-wig sympathises with the Owl and the Pussy-cat's desire to marry.
 - C) The Piggy-wig has no need for the ring and is willing to help.
 - D) The Piggy-wig is tricked by the Owl and the Pussycat.

6. What does the Turkey's role in marrying the Owl and the Pussycat suggest about the society in the poem?
- A) It is a society where animals play traditional human roles.
 - B) It is a society governed by strict rules and regulations.
 - C) It is a society where marriage is not taken seriously.
 - D) It is a society where only certain animals can perform weddings.
7. Why do you think the Owl and the Pussycat dined on "mince, and slices of quince" after their wedding?
- A) They wanted to have a simple meal.
 - B) These were the only foods available to them.
 - C) The foods symbolise a special or celebratory occasion.
 - D) They were following a tradition associated with marriage.
8. What does the final image of the Owl and the Pussycat dancing by the light of the moon suggest about their future?
- A) They will face many challenges together.
 - B) They will live a joyful and harmonious life.
 - C) They will soon part ways and go on separate journeys.
 - D) They are unsure about their decision to marry.
9. What does the word "elegant" most likely mean in the line "You elegant fowl!"?
- A) Clumsy
 - B) Graceful
 - C) Ordinary
 - D) Unusual
10. What does the word "runcible" in the phrase "runcible spoon" most likely refer to?
- A) A large knife
 - B) A sharp fork
 - C) A unique or fancy spoon
 - D) A broken utensil

11. Which sentence below correctly uses a comma after an introductory phrase?

- A) After sailing for a year and a day they found the Bong-Tree.
- B) After sailing for a year and a day, they found the Bong-Tree.
- C) After sailing, for a year and a day they found the Bong-Tree.
- D) After, sailing for a year and a day they found the Bong-Tree.

12. Which of the following sentences correctly uses quotation marks?

- A) The Owl said, "O lovely Pussy! O Pussy, my love what a beautiful Pussy you are."
- B) The Owl said, "O lovely Pussy! O Pussy, my love," "What a beautiful Pussy you are."
- C) The Owl said, "O lovely Pussy! O Pussy, my love, what a beautiful Pussy you are."
- D) The Owl said "O lovely Pussy! O Pussy, my love, what a beautiful Pussy you are".

Answers

1. **C**
2. **B**
3. **B**
4. **B**
5. **B**
6. **A**
7. **C**
8. **B**
9. **B**
10. **C**
11. **B**
12. **C**

Life Changing Tuition