

Ch.12 My Mother Saw A Dancing Bear

Vocabulary:

- 1 . aching eyes(*noun*) : eyes full of sadness
2. bar (*noun*) : a long straight piece of metal or wood
3. bruin (*noun*) : brown bear
4. caper (*verb*) : to run or jump around
5. dusty (*adjective*) : covered with dust
6. halt (*verb*) : to stop
7. shaming (*verb*) : putting to shame, embarrassing
8. somersault (*noun*) : a movement in which somebody turns over completely

Answer the following questions:

1 . Why did the keeper carry a whistle-pipe and a bar ?

Ans. The keeper carried a whistle-pipe and a bar to control the bear and make it dance.

2. When did the children laugh?

Ans. The children laughed at the bruin when he acted in a playful way by lifting his head and dusty feet and when he ran or jumped around.

3. What acts did the bear perform?

Ans. The bear performed various tricks to entertain the crowd. It danced, marched, halted and even performed a somersault.

4. Why did the laughter stop?

Ans. The laughter stopped when the children saw the keeper with a begging cup and realised that the bear's coat of fur was burning and it had pain in its eyes. In spite of such deplorable conditions, it was trying to entertain the people.

5. Quote the lines from the poem that tell us that the bear was sad.

Ans. Only, in bruin's aching eyes,
Far-distant forests, and the snow.

6. What do the following lines mean?

Ans. a) 'The bear with burning coat of fur,
Shaming the laughter to a stop.'

Ans. The children suddenly felt ashamed and stopped laughing when they realised that it was a very hot day and the bear's coat of fur must have become very hot.

b) 'They paid a penny for the dance,

But what they saw was not the show;'

Ans. At the end of the show, the keeper comes around with a begging cup, in which people drop coins. But the children see the pain in the bear's eyes, it's longing for its natural habitat, i.e. the forests and the snow-covered lands.

7. What message does the poet want to convey to the readers?

Ans. The poet wants to convey the message to the readers that we should not exploit animals. They do not like bonded life. They enjoy living in their natural habitat.