

Trying - W.W.E Ross

Answers to NCERT Questions

THINKING ABOUT THE POEM

1. What is the snake trying to escape from?

Ans: The snake is trying to escape from someone who is trying to attack it with a stick.

2. Is it a harmful snake? What is its colour?

Ans: The poet in his words, 'small and green, he is harmless' conveys that it is a green harmless snake.

3. The poet finds the snake beautiful. Find the words he uses to convey its beauty.

Ans: The poet expresses his beauty in the lines/words, 'thin long body', 'beautiful and graceful', 'small and green'.

4. What does the poet wish for the snake?

Ans: The poet wishes that the snake manages to escape into the water and secure itself amid the water reeds, without getting hurt.

5. Where was the snake before anyone saw it and chased it away? Where does the snake disappear?

Ans: The snake was lying along the sand, before it was noticed by the human being, who began chasing it away with a stick. To escape the attack and save itself, the snake glides into the water and disappears among the reeds.

Additional Questions

Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow: (4 Marks each)

1. The snake trying

to escape the pursuing stick,
with sudden curvings of thin
long body. How beautiful
and graceful are his shapes!

- (a) Name the poem and the poet.
- (b) What was the snake trying?
- (c) How did the poet praise the snake?
- (d) Find the word in the verse that means “elegant.

Ans: (a) The poem is ‘The Snake Trying’, and the poet is ‘W.W.E. Ross’.

- (b) The snake was trying to escape being struck by a stick.
- (c) The poet praises the snake by admiring its beauty and graceful movements.
- (d) Graceful

2. He glides through the water away

from the stroke. O let him go
over the water
into the reeds to hide
without hurt.

- (a) How did the snake move forward?
- (b) Why does he do so?
- (c) Where does he go? Why?
- (d) What does the poet wish?

Ans: (a) The snake glides forward.

- (b) He does so to escape being struck by the stick that was pursuing him.
- (c) He goes into the reeds to hide himself.
- (d) The poet wishes that the poor snake escapes without getting hurt.

3. Along the sand

he lay until observed
and chased away, and now
he vanishes in the ripples
among the green slim reeds.

- (a) Where was the snake lying?
- (b) Who observed him?

(c) What does the snake do?

(d) Does he get hurt?

Ans: (a) The snake was lying along the sand.

(b) He was observed by a man who was passing by.

(c) The snake vanishes into the ripples among the green slim reeds.

(d) It appears that the snake do not get hurt. The poet seems to be satisfied that the green little snake has managed to hide himself.

Short Answer Questions (30–40 words: 2 Marks each)

1. What is the central idea of the poem?

Ans: All creatures love their life. Like the snake in the poem, try to save himself when he is in danger. The poet is worried for the snake and hopes that he does not get hurt. It also reveals that all human beings are not cruel.

2. What is your analysis of the poem?

Ans: The poem 'The Snake Trying', written by W.W.E. Ross, comes as an eye-opener to the readers. The simple and comprehensive language, he has used, makes it easy for us to realise what he is trying to convey. We have always been warned about staying away from the 'venomous reptile'. This poem has clarified that all snakes are not dangerous. The message is very evident and worth abiding by.

3. Describe the appearance of the snake.

Ans: The snake in the poem is said to be long, thin and green in colour. He moves gracefully and creates beautiful shapes as it does so. He glides through the water very easily, and uses its colour to hide among the reeds.

4. Do snakes chase and hurt you? When and why do they bite human beings?

Ans: If one makes a study on snakes, we will be able to understand that there are venomous and non-venomous snakes. And snakes are not generally harmful. It will be foolish to try and kill a snake as soon as we spot one. Even a poisonous snake will not harm us as long as we do not disturb them. If it does not sense any danger, it will move away at its own pace. A snake reacts only to protect itself from human beings who have preconceived fears about the reptile. Man does not hesitate to kill it as soon as he sees one.

Long Answer Questions (100–150 words: 8 Marks each)

1. How important is to conserve nature and the creatures that live on the earth?

Ans: Conservation of nature is one of the burning issues of the present day. We notice several species of animals and birds vanishing from the surface of the earth. The children, who inherit the world from us, will not have the opportunity of seeing these creations, as many of them are becoming extinct, like the sparrows.

Every creature on the earth has been sent with a purpose and a duty to perform. And each of these creatures have a role to play in maintaining the ecological balance. Indiscriminate destruction of flora and fauna is dangerous for the stability of nature. Therefore, it is important for the human beings who have taken up the role of the destroyer, to ponder upon the issue. For, the future seems to be grim, as the water, air, and all natural resources are being steadily maligned, by the rational creature—man.

2. Write a paragraph on your encounter with a snake.

Ans: The sun had risen after the first monsoon showers. It is believed that snakes come out of their homes underground, to bask in the warmth of the sun. I was getting out of my house in a little village in Coorg to go to school. It was 8.30 in the morning. As soon as I opened the door and stretched my foot out, I saw a huge rat snake stretched out on the front yard. I screamed. Everyone ran out of the house. My mother took me in. She gave me some water to drink and explained to me that the snake was an absolutely harmless rat snake. She explained to me that it helps us by checking the invasion made by rats, and told me to calm down.

I recovered, and mustering up courage, ventured out of the house again. I noticed that, the snake had vanished. My gardener told me that sensing danger, the poor creature had crawled away to safety.

I learnt a valuable lesson that day. "Don't trouble trouble, until trouble troubles you."

Self- Assessment Test

Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. Small and green

he is harmless even to children.

Along the sand

he lay until observed

(a) Who is 'he'?

- (b) Who says that 'he' is harmless?
- (c) How has 'he' been described?
- (d) Where was 'he' lying?

2. and chased away, and now

he vanishes in the ripples
among the green slim reeds.

- (a) Who has been chased away?
- (b) Who is chasing?
- (c) Who vanishes?
- (d) What are 'slim reeds'?

Short Answer Questions

1. After reading the poem, write down the incident in the form of a small paragraph.
2. Describe the movement of the snake.
3. Why does the poet say that the snake is harmless?
4. What is the poet appealing in the poem, 'The Snake Trying'?
5. Why does the man want to kill the snake?

Long Answer Questions

1. Make a diary entry of the scene as a third person who observed the incident.
2. Write a speech to be made during the morning assembly, on the topic, "Live and Let Live.
3. Write a short paragraph to justify the title of the poem, 'The Snake Trying'.