

**CBSE TEST PAPER-05**  
**Class 12 English Core (Aunt Jennifers Tigers )**

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**General Instructions:-**

- All questions are compulsory.
  - Question No. 1 to 3 carries 4 marks each.
  - Question No. 4 to 10 carries 3 marks each.
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**Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each:**

1. Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen  
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green  
They do not fear the men beneath the tree  
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.
  - a. What is the screen mentioned in the above lines?
  - b. Why is the word 'topaz' used to describe the tigers?
  - c. Who are the men beneath the tiger?
  - d. Explain the phrase 'sleek chivalric certainty'.
2. When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie  
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by  
The tigers in the panel that she made  
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid
  - a. Why is Aunt Jennifer's hand described as being 'terrified'?
  - b. What impression does one get of the aunt's status in the family?
  - c. What do these tigers symbolize?
  - d. What do the last two lines suggest?
3. Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool  
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull  
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band  
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.
  - a. How does the word 'fluttering' add to the understanding of the aunt?
  - b. What is the aunt doing with the wool?

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- c. What does 'weight' symbolize?
  - d. How does the band sit heavily on the aunt's hand?
4. In 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers', why are the tigers described as 'prancing'?
  5. What does Aunt Jennifer's creation of the tigers symbolize?
  6. Describe the tigers on the panel.
  7. What is the theme of the poem?
  8. How did Aunt Jennifer express her inner feelings? What is she a symbol of?
  9. Do you sympathize with Aunt Jennifer? What is the attitude of the speaker towards Aunt Jennifer?
  10. What are the 'ordeals' Aunt Jennifer is surrounded by? Why has the poet used the word 'ringed'?

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**Answers**

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1.
  - a. The screen is the panel in which the aunt is embroidering the tigers.
  - b. The word 'topaz' signifies the honey-gold color of the tiger fur.
  - c. The men beneath the tree could be a reference to the hunters.
  - d. These tigers are sleek and stately, chivalric animals who pace with style.
2.
  - a. Her hands express her terrified mental state.
  - b. The aunt is subjugated by the husband and is oppressed.
  - c. The tigers symbolize the qualities of freedom and power which the aunt aspires to.
  - d. The last two lines bring out the idea that even death will not set the aunt free from fear and oppression while the tigers will always remain free as ever.
3.
  - a. The image of the 'fluttering fingers' brings out the weakness of Aunt Jennifer.
  - b. The aunt is embroidering tigers on a cloth panel.
  - c. 'Weight' has a figurative meaning. It symbolizes the burden of marriage on aunt.
  - d. The wedding band is a symbol of marital union between a man and a woman. For the aunt it has brought ordeals and misery on account of the uncle.
4. The word 'prancing' brings out the elegant and confident way in which the tigers walk. This is what the Aunt Jennifer admires about the tigers since she herself lacks these attributes.
5. The tigers symbolize Aunt Jennifer's desire. She expresses herself through the creation of her tigers whom she embroiders with a needle for the panel on the wall. The tigers are free and symbolize Jennifer's own longing to be free and powerful.
6. The tigers on the embroidered panel are of rich colors, 'bright topaz'. They are described as the residents of a green world. They are fearless, confident of their movements and do not feel frightened of the men shown beneath the tree. They move freely and are symbolic of 'free spirit'.
7. The poet subtly brings out the contrast between the wonderful freedom of the work of art created by Aunt Jennifer and the constraints of married life. The aunt has been subjected to suppression at the hands of her dominating husband and it is only in the embroidery that she gives expression to her creativity.
8. Aunt Jennifer expressed her inner feelings through embroidery and created

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tigers which are symbolic of courage and fearlessness. Aunt Jennifer lacked these qualities as a person.

9. Yes, I do sympathize with Aunt Jennifer. The attitude of the speaker towards Aunt Jennifer appears to be negative and pessimistic because the poetess suggests that Aunt Jennifer, even after her death, will continue to be weighed down heavily by the male dominated society.
10. The 'ordeals' that surround Aunt Jennifer are the hardships and the oppression at the hands of a male dominated society. The poet uses the word 'ringed' to signify that after her death also, Aunt Jennifer's hands will still be affected by the dominance of a male, perhaps her husband.