

CASE 1

Read the extract:

“Aunt Jennifer’s tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.”

1. Why are the tigers described as “bright topaz”?

Answer: To highlight their brilliance, striking appearance, and fearless energy.

2. What does the phrase “world of green” symbolize?

Answer: Nature, freedom, and a space free from patriarchy.

3. What contrast is introduced here?

Answer: The contrast between the tigers' fearlessness and Aunt Jennifer's constrained life.

CASE 2

“Aunt Jennifer’s fingers fluttering through her wool
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.”

4. What causes Aunt Jennifer’s fingers to “flutter”?

Answer: Fear, anxiety, and psychological oppression.

5. Why is the needle “hard to pull”?

Answer: Her domestic burdens make her physically and emotionally weak.

CASE 3

“The massive weight of Uncle’s wedding band
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer’s hand.”

6. What does the “wedding band” symbolize?

Answer: Patriarchal authority and marital oppression.

7. Why is it described as “massive”?

Answer: To show the extent of control and burden Aunt Jennifer feels.

CASE 4

“When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.”

8. Why will her hands still be “ringed with ordeals”?

Answer: Because patriarchal oppression leaves lifelong impact.

9. What idea about gender roles does this reflect?

Answer: Women’s suffering continues across their entire lives.

CASE 5

“The tigers in the panel that she made
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.”

10. Why will the tigers remain unafraid?

Answer: They symbolize freedom unaffected by human oppression.

11. What does their permanence suggest?

Answer: Art outlasts human suffering.

CASE 6

A student says: “The poem is a feminist statement.”

12. Justify the statement.

Answer: It highlights women’s oppression and contrasts it with the freedom they desire.

13. How does Aunt Jennifer serve as a representation?

Answer: As a symbol of women suppressed by patriarchal marriage.

CASE 7

Aunt Jennifer chooses to embroider tigers instead of flowers.

14. What does this choice imply?

Answer: Her longing for fearlessness and independence.

15. How does embroidery become a medium of expression?

Answer: It allows her to express suppressed desires symbolically.

CASE 8

Consider the theme of art vs. reality.

16. How does the poem portray this contrast?

Answer: Her art is bold, but her life is timid and restricted.

17. What message does the poet convey through this disparity?

Answer: Inner desires can remain unfulfilled due to external oppression.

CASE 9

A critic notes: "The poem uses vivid imagery."

18. Identify one example.

Answer: "Bright topaz denizens."

19. How does this imagery reinforce the theme?

Answer: It emphasizes the contrast between vibrant freedom and dull oppression.

CASE 10

20. Explain how the ending of the poem provides hope.

Answer: The tigers continue to symbolize enduring freedom, suggesting that ideals survive beyond oppression.

B. MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS (20)

1. "Bright topaz" refers to the tigers'

- A. Habitat
- B. Colour and brilliance
- C. Ferocity
- D. Ownership

Answer: B

2. Aunt Jennifer's tigers symbolize

- A. Danger
- B. Luxury
- C. Freedom and courage
- D. Domestic life

Answer: C

3. Aunt Jennifer finds the needle hard to pull because

- A. She is old
- B. She is terrified and burdened
- C. She is inattentive
- D. She dislikes embroidery

Answer: B

4. The “wedding band” symbolizes

- A. Wealth
- B. Marital joy
- C. Oppression
- D. Celebration

Answer: C

5. The tigers prance in a

- A. House
- B. Jungle
- C. World of fear
- D. World of freedom

Answer: D

6. Aunt Jennifer’s hands are described as

- A. Powerful
- B. Joyful
- C. Terrified
- D. Skilled

Answer: C

7. The poem is written by

- A. Adrienne Rich
- B. Sylvia Plath
- C. Kamala Das
- D. Emily Dickinson

Answer: A

8. The tone of the poem is primarily

- A. Celebratory
- B. Satirical
- C. Critical and feminist
- D. Romantic

Answer: C

9. The art Aunt Jennifer creates represents

- A. Her talent
- B. Her inner desires
- C. Wealth
- D. Social norms

Answer: B

10. The tigers remain unafraid because

- A. They are real
- B. They are fictional creations
- C. They are protected
- D. They hate humans

Answer: B

11. Aunt Jennifer's fear originates from

- A. Nature
- B. Uncle's domination
- C. Social events
- D. Illness

Answer: B

12. The poem uses contrast to show

- A. Wealth gaps
- B. Emotional conflict
- C. Gender oppression
- D. Travel experiences

Answer: C

13. The poem is written in

- A. Free verse
- B. Rhymed couplets
- C. Sonnet form
- D. Blank verse

Answer: B

14. "Denizens" means

- A. Enemies
- B. Residents
- C. Hunters
- D. Performers

Answer: B

15. Aunt Jennifer's art is

- A. Weak
- B. Oppressed
- C. Free
- D. Incomplete

Answer: C

16. The tigers stand for

- A. Men
- B. Animals
- C. Women's unexpressed strength
- D. Society

Answer: C

17. The poet criticizes

- A. Marriage
- B. Patriarchal domination
- C. Education
- D. Nature

Answer: B

18. Aunt Jennifer's fear will remain

- A. Only in marriage
- B. After death
- C. Temporarily
- D. During festivals

Answer: B

19. The poem deals with the theme of

- A. Adventure
- B. Freedom vs. oppression
- C. Religion
- D. Childhood

Answer: B

20. The panel refers to

- A. Kitchen utensils
- B. Screens she embroidered
- C. Paintings
- D. Jewellery

Answer: B

C. ASSERTION-REASON QUESTIONS (20)

Choose:

- A. Both A and R are true, and R explains A
- B. Both A and R are true, but R does not explain A
- C. A is true, R is false
- D. A is false, R is true

1. Assertion: Aunt Jennifer's movements are restricted.

Reason: She is oppressed by patriarchal expectations.

Answer: A

2. Assertion: The tigers symbolize fearlessness.

Reason: They are unaffected by human social structures.

Answer: A

3. Assertion: Aunt Jennifer finds the needle easy to handle.

Reason: She is skilled in embroidery.

Answer: D

4. Assertion: The wedding band feels heavy to Aunt Jennifer.

Reason: It represents the burden of marital oppression.

Answer: A

5. Assertion: Aunt Jennifer's hands will remain terrified after death.

Reason: Her trauma has been long-lasting.

Answer: A

6. Assertion: The poet uses imagery to depict the tigers.

Reason: Imagery enhances visual impact.

Answer: B

7. Assertion: Aunt Jennifer is depicted as confident.

Reason: She creates bold tigers.

Answer: C

8. Assertion: The tigers prance freely.
Reason: They exist in an imaginary world she creates.
Answer: A

9. Assertion: The poem is feminist.
Reason: It exposes power imbalance in marriage.
Answer: A

10. Assertion: Aunt Jennifer enjoys full freedom in her life.
Reason: She embroiders freely.
Answer: D

11. Assertion: The tigers reflect Aunt Jennifer's real personality.
Reason: They express what she secretly desires to be.
Answer: C

12. Assertion: Uncle dominates Aunt Jennifer.
Reason: The wedding band symbolizes heavy responsibility.
Answer: B

13. Assertion: Art becomes a medium of escape.
Reason: Aunt channels her suppressed desires into embroidery.
Answer: A

14. Assertion: The poem contains symbolism.
Reason: The tigers symbolize patriarchy.
Answer: C

15. Assertion: Aunt Jennifer feels afraid even while doing embroidery.
Reason: Her fear is deeply internalized.
Answer: A

16. Assertion: The poet praises Aunt Jennifer's courage.
Reason: She remains fearless despite oppression.
Answer: D

17. Assertion: Embroidery is easy for Aunt Jennifer.
Reason: Her fingers flutter due to excitement.
Answer: D

18. Assertion: The poem shows contrast between art and reality.
Reason: The tigers are fearless while Aunt Jennifer is oppressed.
Answer: A

19. Assertion: The poem ends on a note of hope.
Reason: The tigers remain symbols of lasting freedom.
Answer: A

20. Assertion: Aunt Jennifer's suffering ends with her death.
Reason: Death liberates all individuals equally.
Answer: C