

O.P.Jindal School, Savitrinagar

Class Notes

Topic- Macavity: The Mystery Cat

Class-8

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Word Meaning

Hidden Paw	a smooth criminal who doesn't leave any evidence
Bafflement	confusion
Fakir	magician
Ginger cat	colour of fur is like ginger
Sunken	at a lower level than surrounding area
Brow	eyebrows
Domed	shaped like an arch or curve
Whiskers	hair in the moustache of a cat
By-street	a separate private or obscured street

Summary

In this poem the poet T.S. Eliot describes a cat called Macavity. He says that Macavity is a Mystery Cat and the Hidden Paw because it is special and no one is able to catch him or punish him. He is master criminal who can disobey and break any law. The headquarters of London police force and the flying Squad of London are totally confused with him. Whenever Macavity commits any crime, then the police is unable to catch him because he runs away from there. So the police and flying Squad are confused and have become hopeless.

The poet says that Macavity has no comparison. There is no one whom we can compare with Macavity because he has broken every human law. He can do impossible tasks, like breaking of Newton's law of gravity. The way Macavity floats in air can surprise a fakir, a religious man who has controlled his body with the power of yoga or a magician who can perform tricks. Anyone can search Macavity in basement or in the air but no one can find Macavity.

Now the poet describes physical appearance of Macavity. He is very tall and thin and colour of his fur is grey like the colour of ginger. We can easily recognize by seeing his eyes as they are at a lower level than normal. His eyebrows are always stretched as if he is in a deep thought and his head is highly curved or domed. His fur is dirty with dust as it doesn't take care of his body. His whiskers are not combed. He moves his head from side to side like a snake. He is very alert because when we think he is half asleep with his eyes half open, he is awake.

Again the poet says that there is no one like Macavity because he is a devil in the form of cat. He is morally corrupted monster. It means he hasn't got a single good quality. By chance we can meet him in a private street or in a square but Macavity cannot be found when a crime is discovered.