



INDIAN SCHOOL NIZWA - WORKSHEET

ENGLISH AUNT JENNIFER'S TIGERS

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: XII Sec: ____

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

I *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*

1 Who is the aunt mentioned here?

Ans. The aunt mentioned here is Aunt Jennifer, the protagonist of Adrienne Rich's poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'; she is a woman going through unpleasant experiences in her married life.

2 Why is she "ringed with ordeals"?

Ans. The 'ring' here refers to her wedding band or ring, which has brought with it a host of family responsibilities. She feels so surrounded (i.e. ringed) by her marital constraints that it seems like an ordeal to her.

3 What is the difference between her and the tigers?

Ans. Aunt Jennifer is quite weak and submissive, whereas the tigers are strong, bold and powerful. She is bound by the constraints of her married life, while the tigers are free to move about in the green woods.

4 Why has Aunt Jennifer created the tigers so different from her own character?

Ans. The tigers created by Aunt Jennifer are an expression of her desire to free herself from the constraints of her married life. She wants to be bold and fearless like her tigers.

II *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.*

1 How are Aunt Jennifer's tigers described?

Ans. Aunt Jennifer's tigers have been described as golden yellow in colour. They prance fearlessly across a screen in sleek chivalric certainty.

2 Why are they described as denizens of a world of green?

Ans. They have been called as denizens of a world of green because they are the natives of dense green forests.

3 Why are they not afraid of the men? (Delhi 2010; Modified)

Ans. They are not afraid of men because they are brave, strong, fearless and full of confidence.

4 What are her tigers symbolic of?

Ans. Her tigers are symbolic of Aunt Jennifer's desire for freedom. They are also symbols of strength and self-confidence.

Short questions

1 How are the tigers different from her?

Ans. Aunt Jennifer's tigers are created by her on the tapestry. However, they present a sharp contrast to their creator. While the Aunt is weak, meek and submissive and is scared of expressing her feelings openly, the tigers are strong, fearless and confident. They are bold creatures and are



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scared of no one. The aunt is in bonded in matrimony and faces several restrictions. Qn the other hand, the tigers move about freely.

2 How does Aunt Jennifer express her bitterness and anger against male dominance?

Ans. Aunt Jennifer is too terrified to openly resist the oppression that she is victim of. She expresses her bitterness and anger against male dominance silently through her art. She creates tigers on her tapestry; animals that are symbolic of bravery, fearlessness and strength. Besides, she portrays these tigers as creatures unafraid of the men around them. The tigers she creates are wild and free from any kind of bondage.

3 Why did Aunt Jennifer choose to embroider tigers on the panel?

Ans. Aunt Jennifer chose to embroider tigers on the panel because for her, the tigers were the symbols of bravery, fearlessness and strength. These creatures are not afraid of the men around them. Her embroidering the tigers is perhaps an expression of her own bitterness and anger against male dominance

4 Why do you think Aunt Jennifer created animals that are so different from her own

Ans. character? What might the poet be suggesting through this difference? Aunt Jennifer is a weak and terrified person who, all through her life, was suppressed by the constraints of marriage. The animals that she is creating in her panel are very different, as they are chivalric and do not fear men. They are a symbol of strength, fierceness and beauty. They represent Aunt Jennifer's suppressed desire to become bold and fearless, and free from oppression. The poet wants to emphasise the spirit and desire for freedom which is innate in all human beings.