



Subject: English
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Poem 1
Topic : The Squirrel

Pre-activity: Write about your favourite animal.

Summary:

The poet, Mildred Bowers Armstrong saw a squirrel sitting on a tree and eating nuts. Its tail was raised upwards with the tip pointing downwards. Thus, the tail seemed to be making a question mark. It had a grey coat. It was so loose that the poet calls it an overcoat'. In order to eat a nut, it was sitting straight. Squirrel is funny little animal that likes to play with human beings. If human beings ran round his tree, the squirrel wouldn't be frightened. It would like to tease and play.

Question 1. Why does the poet say the squirrel “wore a question mark for tail”? Draw a squirrel, or find a picture of a squirrel sitting on the ground. How would you describe its tail?

Answer: The poet says the squirrel “wore a question mark for tail” as the tail of the squirrel curled in a way that it appears like a question mark.

Question 2. Do we usually say that an animal ‘wears’ a tail? What do we say? (Think: Does an animal wear a coat? Consult a dictionary if you like, and find out how ‘wear’ is used in different ways.)

Answer: No, usually we don't say that an animal ‘wears’ a tail. Instead, we say the animal ‘has’ a tail.

According to the dictionary, the word ‘wear’ is used to mean something that is used to cover. For example, we wear clothes.

Question 3. “He liked to tease and play”. Who is teasing whom? How?

Answer: “He liked to tease and play”. Here, the poet is teasing the squirrel. The poet will approach the squirrel and as soon as he nears the squirrel, it runs away in a different direction.