

Tier 1 assessment (Traditional)

Poetry Assessment

Today you will be writing your assessment on poetry. You have **60 minutes** to complete your assessment.

The assessment will be on a poem we have not looked at in class.

You will need to show how well you can understand the poet's use of metaphors in the poem.



Here is the question you will be answering:

How does the poet describe the tom cat in this poem?

Here is how you should **use your time** in this assessment:

- Read the poem 3 times
- Find two or three metaphors. Think about the **tenor**, **vehicle**, and **ground** for each metaphor.
- Plan what you are going to write in each paragraph.
- Write your answer.

Here's how you can **structure** your essay:

1. The **first paragraph** should **summarise** what the poem is about in a couple of sentences. This will be your introduction.
2. The **next 3-4 paragraphs** should explain how the poet **describes the cat**. Make sure you use evidence in these paragraphs, and that you explain what some of the metaphors mean!
3. Then write a **conclusion** summing up what the poet thinks about the cat.

When you've finished answering the questions, check your writing.

- Check 1:** Are there any run-on sentences?
- Check 2:** Does each sentence begin with a capital and end with a full stop?
- Check 3:** Does each proper noun begin with a capital?
- Check 4:** Have you checked your spellings?

The Tom Cat

At midnight in the alley
A tom-cat comes to wail,
And he chants the hate of a million years
As he swings his snaky tail.

Malevolent, bony, brindled,
Tiger and devil and bard,
His eyes are coals from the middle of Hell
And his heart is black and hard.

He twists and crouches and capers
And bares his curved sharp claws,
And he sings to the stars of the jungle nights
Ere cities were, or laws.

Beast from a world primeval,
He and his leaping clan,
When the blotched red moon leers over the roofs
Give voice to their scorn of man.

He will lie on a rug to-morrow
And lick his silky fur,
And veil the brute in his yellow eyes
And play he's tame, and purr.

But at midnight in the alley
He will crouch again and wail,
And beat the time for his demon's song
With the swing of his demon's tail.

Vocabulary

malevolent - Causing or wanting to cause harm or evil.

brindled - Brownish or tawny with streaks of other colour.

bard - A poet

capers - To run and jump in a playful way

ere - Before

primeval - Belonging to a very early period in the history of the world

blotched - covered in marks

scorn - hatred, disrespect

veil - to hide

play - pretend