

POETRY

CHAP-06 - AUNT JENNIFER'S TIGERS

Adrienne Rich

ABOUT THE POET :- Adrienne Rich was born in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. She is widely known for her involvement in contemporary women's movement as a poet and theorist. She has published nineteen volumes of poetry, three collections of essays and other writing.

SUMMARY :- In the poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tiger's' a woman expresses her suppressed feelings through her art. Aunt Jennifer is the victim of the male dominated society. She has no one to tell her mental and physical pain. She makes a picture to convey her deep feelings. The speaker describes the tigers which her aunt produced on the panel. They are set in motion. They are moving quickly by raising the front legs and jumping forwards on the back legs. In the green, jungle they look free, bright, brave, fearless and magnificent. There are men sitting under the tree, but the tigers do not. They move on to their goal boldly and smoothly. Jennifer finds it difficult to make pictures by using the ivory needle. She is tired of

doing the household work after she gets married. She can't get herself involved in her artistic work. She has to do it in her leisure time. Even then she has to be sure whether her husband is watching her or not. So, her hands are terrified. She will not be free from fear until she dies. She will be dominated by her husband. She will die, but her art will express her desire to move proudly and fearlessly like the tigers she has made.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTION :-

- Q17. How do 'denizens' and 'chivalric' add to our understanding of the tiger's attitudes?
- Ans. Denizens means inhabitants or dwellers of the forest. They are often found in a particular place. Chivalric means gallantry or bravery. They tell us that the tigers do not fear the man beneath the tree. They pace elegantly and with grace certainly.
- Q18. Why do you think Sund Jennifer created animals that are so different from her own character?
- Ans. Sund Jennifer drew the picture of animals that are so different from her own character because she was greatly experiencing the constraints of her married life. On the other hand, the tigers she has created are free,

elegant and brave. Aunt gives the expression to her feeling through these creautivities.

Q3) Interpret the symbols found in the poem.

Ans. A few symbols used can be found in this poem. These are "Tigers, fluttering fingers and wedding wand. Tigers are the symbol of freedom, elegance and bravery. But on the other hand Fluttering fingers symbolise the weakness of a married female. Wedding wand also symbolises the constrictions of the marriage.

Q4) Do you sympathise with Aunt Jennifer. What is the attitude of the speaker towards Aunt Jennifer?

Ans. Yes, we sympathise with Aunt Jennifer. The attitude of the speaker towards Aunt Jennifer is of affection, sympathy and love. She wants to make her readers to face all the ordeals of a married life in an elegant style.

Q5) How has Aunt Jennifer created her tigers?

Ans. Aunt Jennifer's tigers are her own creations. She works with ivory needles to make these tigers in the panel. They have all the traits that are found in the 'denizens' of green forests. They are well ~~built~~ built and well groomed. They are chivalric and full of confidence.

Q6) What will happen to the tigers of Aunt Jennifer when she is dead?

Ans. Aunt Jennifer's tiger will survive her. The

tigers in the panel that she made with her hands will still remain there. They will go on prancing, proud and unafraid. She will die but her creations survive.

IMPORTANT STANZAS

STANZA NO - 01

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.

i) Name the poem and the poet.

Ans Poem - Aunt Jennifer's Tiger.
Poet - Adrienne Rich

ii) What are Aunt Jennifer's tigers doing?

Ans Aunt Jennifer's tigers were running.

iii) Do they pace? Are they fearless?

Ans Yes, they were in pace. Yes they were fearless.

STANZA NO - 02

Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.

ii) What was Aunt Jennifer doing?
Ans She was making tigers on the pannel.

iii) What does 'Uncle wedding band' symbolize?
Ans Uncle's wedding band symbolize unhappiness and painful experience of her.

iv) Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.
Explain.

Ans The wedding band sit heavily on her hands she finds even an ivory needle hard.

