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Word Meanings

Notice these words in the poem and guess their meaning from the context

turquoise

darts

Answer:

Turquoise - Sky-blue or greenish blue colour.

Darts - To move somewhere rapidly or suddenly.

Understanding The Poem

1. Comment on the lines that make you visualise the colourful image of the peacock.

Answer:

The lines which makes us visualise the colourful image of the peacock are -
When the poet calls the peacock “a flash of turquoise” the reader’s mind will be filled with the image of a colourful peacock.

The phrase “the slender neck” depicts the rich figure of the peacock and its grace when it poses.
“A blue shadow” explains the beautiful image of the peacock.

The poet describes the eyes of the peacock as “Those dark glowing eyes violet fringed with golden amber.”

2. What are the cues that signal the presence of the peacock in the vicinity?

Answer:

A loud sharp call, flash of turquoise, a vanishing tail end, a blue shadow, change in the wind direction and awakening of a cat and the way it stretches signal the presence of the peacock in the vicinity.

3. How does the connection drawn between the tail and the eyes add to the descriptive detail of the poem?

Answer:

The pattern present on the peacock’s tail looks like eyes which cannot be blinked. When the tail is contracted, it gives an illusion of blinking numerous eyes at one time. Hence, this adds to the descriptive detail of the poem.

4. How does the poem capture the elusive nature of the peacock?

Answer:

The elusive nature of the peacock is captured in the poem by explaining the activities which signal its presence in the vicinity. For instance, in the first line of the poem we hear “His loud sharp call”, or we get a “glimpse of the very end of his tail” in the last line of the first stanza.

If anyone tries to get a glimpse of the elusive bird, he “might see the peacock turning away as he gathers his tail.” This explanation in the poem portrays the elusive native of the peacock effectively.

5. The peacock is a colourful bird. How does the poem capture the various colours that its plumage displays?

Answer:

Various colours of the peacock's plumage are captured in the poem with the help of expressions like "turquoise", "blue shadow", "dark glowing eyes" and "violet fringed with golden amber". These expressions beautifully represent the colours of the peacock in the poem.

