

English Literature

Class: VIII

Macavity: The Mystery Cat

Summary of Macavity: The Mystery Cat

Macavity is a mystery cat because no crime agency was ever able to arrest this criminal mastermind during or after his committing a crime. They could never get his paw-prints. Scotland Yard and Flying Squad most shamefully accept their defeat before Macavity. Hence, the cat is bafflement for them.

It is said that Macavity is nowhere found. It is very difficult to meet a master villain like Macavity anywhere and there is no one who ever met Macavity; another reason is that it is impossible to meet an exceptional cat like Macavity in the whole world.

As per the law of gravity, every object is pulled down to the earth's surface but Macavity, being exceptional, never comes down once he escapes from a scene of crime.

Being the criminal mastermind, an internationally wanted criminal, Macavity is awake and vigilant though he appears to be asleep. Macavity spends most of its time thinking and plotting.

His eyes are sunken in, brow is deeply lined with thought, his head is highly doomed, his coat is dusty from neglect,

and his whiskers are uncombed because he doesn't have all that time to care for his body and appearance. He is what his brain is.

Important Questions and Answers:

1. Why is Macavity called a Mystery Cat?

Macavity is a mystery cat because no crime agency was ever able to arrest this criminal mastermind during or after his committing a crime. They could never get his paw-prints.

2. Macavity is also known as 'Hidden Paw.' Why?

Macavity is also known as Hidden Paw because of its secretive character. After committing a crime, it escapes so smartly and mysteriously that investigators have never traced the marks of his paws.

3. What are Scotland Yard and Flying Squad? Why is Macavity the bafflement and despair for them?

Scotland Yard and Flying Squad are the most popular and most efficient crime investigators in the world. Though they are proud of their achievements in the history of crime, they most shamefully accept their defeat before Macavity. Hence, the cat is bafflement for them.

4. Why is it said that there is no one like Macavity?

It is said that Macavity is nowhere for two reasons: Firstly it is very difficult to meet a master villain like Macavity anywhere and there is no one who ever met Macavity; another reason is that it is impossible to meet an exceptional cat like Macavity in the whole world.

5. How does Macavity break the law of gravity?

As per the law of gravity, every object is pulled down to the earth's surface but Macavity, being exceptional, floats in the air without any support.

6. What do you mean by the power of levitation? Whom does Macavity amaze with his power of levitation? How?

Levitation is the power to float or fly in the air. A fakir is endowed with a number of magical powers and skills but he is not able to tame Macavity who alone has the ability to practice the power of levitation.

7. What do you understand about Macavity being a 'ginger cat?'

Macavity being a ginger cat means it is highly spirited and animated. Even when it is seemingly asleep, it is wide awake.

8. Why does Macavity appear to be half asleep?

A very important quality of an exceptional criminal is to be ever vigilant. Being the criminal mastermind, an

internationally wanted criminal, Macavity is awake and vigilant though he appears to be asleep.

9. What gives us the impression that Macavity's actions are guided by his right judgment?

Macavity spends most of its time thinking and plotting. His his eyes are sunken in, brow is deeply lined with thought, his head is highly domed, his coat is dusty from neglect, his whiskers are uncombed because he doesn't have all that time to care for his body and appearance. He is what his brain is.

10. Apart from thinking, how does Macavity keep his enemies away?

Macavity seldom sleeps. He sways his head from side to side, with movements like a snake, observing the least movements. He appears to be asleep but that is only to fool his captors, the police and Scotland Yard. In fact when you think he's half asleep, he's always wide awake.

11. Why does the poet repeat the first line as before?

The poet implies double meaning. In the first place he reminds us that Macavity is an absolute fiction and in the other he glorifies Macavity to be a unique cat whose qualities are found in no other cat.

12. Explain, "He is a fiend in feline shape."

Macavity has the looks of a cat, but that's all. In fact

Macavity is a devil/fiend in the disguise of a cat/feline.

13. Why do we happen to believe that Macavity is the one behind most crimes in the town?

It is common talk in the town that Macavity is a fiend, plotting wickedness. Apart from this, only Macavity has the ability to disappear from the scene of crime so swiftly that the most efficient crime agencies fail to get a glimpse of him.

14. What does Macavity do just after committing a crime?

After committing a crime, Macavity obliterates all its foot prints and other marks of his involvement and stealthily disappears from the scene. Soon after this, it returns to its usual place and lies down and seemingly sleeps to avoid the attention of the people.