



# INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Subject : ENGLISH

Topic : Aunt Jennifer's Tigers Worksheet : 13

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the Student : \_\_\_\_\_ Class: XII Division : \_\_\_\_\_ Roll Number : \_\_\_\_\_

1. Read the extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:

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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."

Q1. What qualities of the 'tigers' are highlighted here?

Fearlessness and ferocity of the tigers are highlighted here. Aunt Jennifer's nervousness and timidity are in sharp contrast to wild ferocity of the tigers who are not afraid of hunting men. Unlike Aunt Jennifer, the tigers fear nothing.

Q2. Why are they referred to as 'denizens of a world of green'?

The tigers are the dwellers of the green forest so they are referred to as denizens.

Q3. What does prancing tigers symbolize?

Prancing tigers are a symbol of the spirit of freedom within Aunt Jennifer which remains subdued.

Q4. Explain; "They pace in sleek chivalric certainty".

The movement of the tigers are sleek, stealthy, sure, majestic and elegant. They are sure of their purpose. Gallant and confident, they move ahead fearlessly undeterred by any obstacles or hindrances.

2. Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool

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

Q1. Why do Aunt Jennifer's fingers flutter through her wool?

Aunt Jennifer lives in constant fear of her husband. She feels so nervous and terrified that her hands shake and flutter when she sits down to knit.

Q2. Why does she find it hard to pull the ivory needle?

She finds it hard to pull the ivory needle more because of mental suppression, than that of physical weakness. Her constant fear has led to a nervous wreck.

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Q3. Explain: 'massive weight of Uncle's wedding band'.

The expression is symbolic of male authority and power. Matrimony binds the woman physically as well as mentally. Likewise Aunt Jennifer is trapped in gender oppression and feels herself burdened by the authority of her husband.

Q4. How is Aunt Jennifer affected by the 'weight of matrimony'?

Aunt Jennifer cannot do things freely. She tries to come up to the expectation of her husband. She seems to have lost her identity. The freedom that she dreams of through her art, is itself symbolic of her oppressed self.

3. When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie  
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.  
The tigers in the panel that she made  
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid."

Q1. What is Aunt Jennifer's death symbolic of?

Aunt Jennifer's death is symbolic of her complete submission to her suppression.

Q2. Explain: "terrified hands".

Aunt Jennifer is terrified by her dominating husband. Hence her hands are shivering.

Q3. What does 'ringed with ordeals' imply?

Aunt Jennifer has been so victimized in her life that even after death she remains trapped. We find her a victim of gender injustice and oppression.

### II. Short Answer Type Questions

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Q1. How do the tigers made by Aunt Jennifer look like?

The tigers, made by Aunt Jennifer on the screen, are jumping and playing about without any fear of the men beneath the tree. They walk in elegance and style displaying the spirit of courage, fearlessness, strength and confidence.

Q2. Why do you think Aunt Jennifer's hands are fluttering through her wool? Why is she finding the needle so hard to pull?

Aunt Jennifer is victimized by the dominant nature of her husband. Her life has become a torture due to her suppression by her atrocious husband. The fear of her authoritative husband has gone so deep into her being that she seems to have lost.

### III Practice questions:

1. What do the tigers made by the Aunt symbolize?
2. Explain 'her terrified hands will lie, still ringed with the ordeals she was mastered by'.

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