

LESSON PLAN

Subject	English	Date	dd/mm/yyyy
Textbook	Flamingo	Class	XII
Topic	Aunt Jennifer's Tigers (Poem)	Duration	40 minutes

1 Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to -

- 1.1. comprehend and appreciate the feminist aspects portrayed in the poem
- 1.2. empathise with harassed women
- 1.3. use the lexical items contextually
- 1.4. critically examine the theme of the poem
- 1.5. identify the different poetic devices used
- 1.6. understand the critical appreciation of the poem
- 1.7. understand that man and woman are equal
- 1.8. empathise with the victims of male chauvinism
- 1.9. be prepared to face such oppressions boldly
- 1.10. raise voice against domestic violence
- 1.11. understand that females even have inherent desires and they deserve freedom: mental and emotional both

2 Learning Objectives:

- 1.1 To recall about the poet and her genre/work (As they have already studied the poet in Class X *Poem –Trees*).
- 1.2 To paraphrase the poem in their own language.
- 1.3 To interpret the meaning of various words, phrases and symbols used in the poem.
- 1.4 To apply new lexical terms introduced in their day-to-day conversation.
- 1.5 To create a character analysis of Aunt Jennifer.
- 1.6 To recognise the dominating effects of patriarchy in prevalent society.
- 1.7 To identify the rebellion and repression of male chauvinism and suffocation in married life.
- 1.8 To compare the situation of an independent woman with an unhappily married woman.
- 1.9 To evaluate the situation and find solutions to domestic violence.
- 1.10 To give examples of successful women.

2 Instructional Teaching Aids:

- 2.1 Text book (Flamingo)
- 2.2 Flash Cards
- 2.3 Images of Tigers, Housewife etc.
- 2.4 Video clips / documentaries on domestic violence




3 Previous Knowledge Assumed:

It is assumed that-

- 3.1 students already know about the poet and her genre.

3.2 they already know about the basic structure of the society in which marriage is an important institution but somehow it is male-dominated.


4 Previous Knowledge Testing:



5Es	Teacher's Activity	Students' Response
Engage	<p>The teacher will show the picture of a tiger and ask the students what they know about this creature.</p> 	<p>Tigers live in the jungle. They are apex predators. They are fearless, brave, strong etc.</p>
	<p>Do you think 'happily married' is an oxymoron? Why or why not?</p> 	<p>Yes/No. Students will give response based on their observations.</p>
Explore	<p>What do you think about patriarchal society? Does it still exist?</p> 	<p>Patriarchal society is one in which males are given more preference than their female counterparts. Yes, somewhere it still exists.</p>
	<p>Are women being considered equal as men in today's society?</p>	<p>No.</p>
	<p>Is there any similarity between a tiger and a domestically abused woman?</p>	<p>No response.</p>

5 Announcement of the Topic

Well dear students, today we will discuss the poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' which is poem number 6 of your book 'Flamingo'.

6 Presentation

5Es	Teacher's Activity	Student's Activity	Chalkboard/Interactive Board Work
Explore	<p>Let us first of all discuss about the poet of the poem ‘Adrienne Rich’: Adrienne Rich (1929) 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 writings. A strong resistance to racism and militarism echoes through her work. The poem <i>Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers</i> addresses the constraints of married life a woman experiences.</p>	<p>Students are carefully listening to the teacher and writing main points in their notebooks. After the teacher completes his explanation, students ask their doubts (if any).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Topic – Poem – 6 : Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers By – Adrienne Rich</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
Explain	<p><i>Introduction of the poem:</i> The poem, written in 1951, addresses the constraints of married life a woman experiences. Aunt Jennifer is a universal symbol of an oppressed wife who wants to escape from the traditional institution of marriage and the patriarchal rules of society. The poem also depicts the freedom of expression through art, as well as the permanence / immortality of art over the transience of human life.</p>	<p>Students are listening carefully and clarifying their doubts (if any).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Topic – Poem – 6 : Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers By- Adrienne Rich</p>

Elaborate	<p>Now dear students, let us recite the poem and discuss the line-by-line explanation of the poem.</p> <p>Stanza 1</p> <p><i>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></p> <p>Explanation: Aunt Jennifer has embroidered tigers in tapestries displayed all over her room. The tigers are all depicted as dominant, active, brightly hued - a complete contrast to Aunt Jennifer. The tapestries depict a whole forest scene complete with even hunters. The tigers are unafraid of the hunters, and are elegant, brave and confident. Aunt Jennifer, a meek and subservient wife, wants to be as courageous and lively as a tiger. She has not experienced any sense of chivalric treatment from her husband.</p>	<p>Students are listening carefully and clarifying their doubts (if any). They are also reciting the poem in their minds along with the teacher. The students are taking notes and writing word meanings in their fair notebooks.</p>	<p>Word-meanings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • topaz : a gemstone of yellow colour  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • denizen : a person, an animal or a plant that lives, grows or is often found in a particular place. • sleek : elegant • chivalric : polite 
	<p>Stanza 2</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>Explanation of the poem: Aunt Jennifer might not be in the prime of her life. She is so frightened of her husband (the "Uncle") that her fingers are trembling when she is embroidering. She finds it difficult to pull the ivory needle. The wedding ring which the Uncle has given her on their wedding day is heavy for her. The marriage has become a prison from which she can never escape.</p>	<p>Students are listening carefully and clarifying their doubts (if any). They are also reciting the poem in their minds along with the teacher. The students are taking notes and writing word meanings in their fair notebooks.</p>	<p>Word-meanings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fluttering : moving with a light irregular or trembling motion. • ivory : a hard creamy-white substance composing the main part of the tusks of an elephant, walrus, or narwhal, often used to make ornaments and other articles. • massive : large and heavy wedding band : a thin simple ring that is given during the wedding ceremony to symbolise matrimony

	<p>Stanza 3</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>Explanation: The third stanza depicts the extreme fear that Aunt Jennifer has towards her husband. It shows that even after her death too, she might lie in the coffin fearing her husband. Throughout her marriage she was controlled by her "Master", the Uncle. Even after her death also, she cannot escape from all the burdens that had surrounded her throughout her married life. Human life is transient, but not art. Even after her death, the tigers that she has created will remain alive - active, proud and fearless.</p>	<p>Students are listening carefully and clarifying their doubts (if any). They are also reciting the poem in their minds along with the teacher. The students are taking notes and writing word meanings in their fair notebooks.</p>	<p>Word-meanings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • panel : a flat, usually rectangular part, or piece of wood, metal, cloth, etc., that fits into or onto something larger • ringed : wearing a ring or being surrounded • ordeal : a very unpleasant and prolonged experience.
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Elaborate</p>	<p>Theme of the poem: The present poem under discussion takes up the theme of male chauvinism and patriarchal society by means of a domestically abused woman, Aunt Jennifer. The poem also takes up the idea of immortality of art.</p>	<p>Students listen carefully and write the theme in their notebooks.</p>	

Literary devices used in the poem are:

1. Imagery – Imaginary means a sensory experience or creating a picture with words only for the readers or Imagination is the literary term that refers to the five senses for language and representation. Imagery includes: fear stricken, depressed wife, magnificent tigers.

2. Metaphor – describes an object or an action in such a way that isn't literally true or is used to indicate indirect comparison between completely different things. For example: bright topaz.

3. Alliteration – refers to the repetition of the same letter or sound and they consist of closely connected words; used when a series of the words have the same letter or sound. For example: sleek, chivalric certainty or fingers fluttering or prancing proud.

4. Symbolism – shows the ideas and qualities and is a literary device which uses symbols, such as words, people, signs, settings or abstract ideas in other ways. For example: heavy wedding band, tigers as untamed free spirit.

5. Personification – type of figurative language where non-human beings are described as having human characteristics. For example: tigers are being given qualities like pride, confidence, and unafraid of humans/men.

6. Hyperbole – they consist of claiming statements or claims that are not meant to be taken literally. For example: exaggeration of “heavy wedding band”.



Students listen carefully and write the literary devices used in their notebooks.

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7 Recapitulation

Teacher's Activity	Students' Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What do you understand by patriarchal society?• Explain the idea of feminism.• What is the genre of poetess Adrienne Rich?• Explain the theme of the poem in your own words.• Identify literary devices used in the poem.	Students will give answers to these questions.

8 Homework/Activity

- 8.1 Students can be instructed to refer the library or the internet to find poems with similar themes.
- 8.2 The students can be encouraged to write a creative piece in which they can be asked as to how they would react if they are put in Aunt Jennifer's shoes.
- 8.3 Solve assignments, comprehension questions, textual exercises/extracts/value-based questions.
- 8.4 Draw character-sketch of Aunt Jennifer.