

# Cat

*by J. R. R. Tolkien*

The fat cat on the mat  
may seem to dream  
of nice mice that suffice  
for him, or cream;  
5 but he free, maybe,  
walks in thought  
unbowed, proud, where loud  
roared and fought  
his kin, lean and slim,  
10 or deep in den  
in the East feasted on beasts  
and tender men.

The giant lion with iron  
claw in paw,  
15 and huge ruthless tooth  
in gory jaw;  
the pard dark-starred,  
fleet upon feet,  
that oft soft from aloft  
20 leaps upon his meat  
where woods loom in gloom—  
far now they be,  
fierce and free,  
and tamed is he;  
25 but fat cat on the mat  
kept as a pet  
he does not forget.

1. What is the purpose of this selection?
    - A to persuade the reader to get a cat
    - B to teach the reader about the ways of cats
    - C to entertain the reader with a cat's dream
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2. Why does the poet begin and end the poem by talking about "the fat cat on the mat"?
    - A to show the reader that the cat has not really changed
    - B to show the reader that the cat went away and came back
    - C to show the reader that the cat likes to hunt wild beasts

3. What is the cat dreaming about?

A hunting

B fishing

C playing

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4. In line 15, what does *ruthless* mean?

A running very fast

B showing no mercy

C moving quietly

5. Which **best** describes the cat on the mat?
- A satisfied
  - B angry
  - C surprised
- 
6. Which **best** describes what the cat remembers?
- A that cats were once chased by dogs
  - B that cats were once fierce
  - C that cats were once scared of their own shadows

7. Which **best** describes the effect of the numerous rhymes?
- A The rhymes make the poem more humorous.
  - B The rhymes show that the poem is really a song.
  - C The rhymes give the poem a feeling of lightness.

## End of Sample Items

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**NCEXTEND2 EOG Reading Grade 8 Sample Items**

<b>Selection Title</b>	<b>Question Number</b>	<b>Correct Answer</b>	<b>Thinking Skill</b>	<b>Objective Number</b>
Cat	1	C	Analyzing	4.01
Cat	2	A	Organizing	4.01
Cat	3	A	Analyzing	5.01
Cat	4	B	Knowledge	6.01
Cat	5	A	Analyzing	5.01
Cat	6	B	Analyzing	5.01
Cat	7	C	Applying	5.01