



---

## CLASS NOTES-ANSWERS

### Working with the poem.

1) Read the first stanza and think.

i) Is Macavity a cat really?

**Answer:** No, Macavity is not a cat really.

ii) If not, who can Macavity be?

**Answer:** Macavity was the creation of the author's pen. Its actions resembled a crook, the master criminal. The cat had a cunning mind and could not be caught by the Scotland Yard Police.

2) Complete the following sentences.

i) A master criminal is one who \_\_\_\_\_.

**Answer:** can defy the law and is able to escape from the clutch of police.

ii) The Scotland Yard is baffled because \_\_\_\_\_.

**Answer:** Whenever they reach the scene of the crime, they cannot find Macavity.

iii) \_\_\_\_\_ because Macavity moves much faster than them.

**Answer:** Nobody can catch Macavity at the scene of the crime.

3) "A cat, I am sure, could walk on a cloud without coming through". (Jules Verne) Which law is Macavity breaking in the light of the comment above?

**Answer:** Macavity is breaking the law of gravity, which pulls everything towards the earth, in the above-presented comment. No evidence is found at the crime scene about Macavity and it appears as if he vanished through thin air.

4) Read stanza 3, and then, describe Macavity in two or three sentences of your own.

**Answer:** Macavity is a ginger cat whose brows are lined with thought over sunken eyes. He is tall and thin and his head is highly domed. He is always wide awake, panning for his next crime even when everyone thinks he is half asleep. His coat is dusky and whiskers remain uncombed.



5) Say 'False' or 'True' for each of the following statements.

- i) Macavity is not an ordinary cat. **True**
- ii) Macavity cannot do what a fakir can easily do. **False**
- iii) Macavity has supernatural powers. **True**
- iv) Macavity is well-dressed, smart and bright. **False**
- v) Macavity is a spy, a trickster and a criminal, all rolled in one. **True**

6) Having read the poem, try to guess whether the poet is fond of cats. If so, why does he call Macavity a fiend and monster?

**Answer:** The poet calls Macavity the bafflement of Scotland and it seems like he is fond of cats. He praises him but calls him a 'fiend' and a 'monster' because he wanted to put light on his evil side too. He used an image of a cat to show an image of a criminal who escapes easily because a cat is sly and escapes without leaving a trace behind. The mystery that a cat beholds in its eyes also reminds us of an expert thief.

7) Has the poet used exaggeration for special effect? Find a few examples of it and read those lines aloud.

**Answer:** There are various instances in the poem where the poet has used exaggeration for special effect. It provides the poem with drama and grandeur which enhances the poem. It's super-quick, according to the poet, so fast that no one can capture it, from Scotland Yard to the flying squad. These exaggerations provide the cat with a monstrous and mysterious aura that holds the readers in awe.

More examples of such exaggerations are:

- (i) 'He's the bafflement of Scotland Yard, the Flying Squad's despair'.
- (ii) 'He breaks the law of gravity'.
- (iii) 'His powers of levitation would make a fakir stare.'
- (iv) 'He's a fiend in feline shape, a monster of depravity.'
- (iv) 'He is the Hidden paw'