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FOREWORD

This is another poetry collection from the amazing collection of poems written by the same poet targeted at intermediary learners and all lovers of poetry.

This collection is written on animals, household and wild animals. The poet takes a poetic look at the animals as simple and descriptive as possible for learners to learn new things.



DEDICATION

Dedicated to my family.



GUIDE

This collection contains thirty five poems on different animals.

The poems have free verses, very simple and easy to read and understand, the grammar is basic but focus is needed.

The class or subject teachers should take their time to explain difficult words and concepts found in the poem. They should also calmly and expertly explain the poem for better understanding.

After their analysis, the students should answer the questions under each poem.



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DOG



A man's friend a man's enemy

Run and he chases you

Be bold while a dog approaches

And he may wag his tail

Smelling from afar

Because of a sense of smell better than man's forty times.

When you see a dog that sweats apart from paws

Show me one

If you think you dream

Dogs do too

Loyal as a friend

Despised as an enemy

Obedient and impossible not to love



Not to love on his best days
Or hated on his worst days
Most days he is playing around
Or barking
Some days he is just laying on the ground
Or disinterested
Until he sees his master approaching
Then his tail wagging begins
His tongue protruding out of his open mouth
Open mouth showing a set of white teeth
Even though he never brushes his teeth
He eats anything
His teeth will always be white

QUESTIONS

1. Why is a dog a man's friend and at the same time a man's enemy?
2. Place side by side two sets of opposite words used in the poem and identify the figure of speech



SNAKE



Solar powered animals

Man's enemy man's unusual pet

Loved by some despised by many

Ancient trickster cunning master planner

Every size is deadly

He slithers through the grass

Unnoticed

With one aim in mind

Food

Scent of food smelled from close by

Tongue like antenna

Picking out preys of different sizes

Sometimes a battle between the two



And sometimes a flawless victory for the slithering beast
Hail and fear the king cobra
A strike can kill five grown men
Love and pity the royal python
Harmless and indeed royal
At the sight of a snake run or be sure of what to do
Even the snake runs too
Whether the rattle snake or the rock python
At first sight run or be sure of what to do

QUESTIONS

1. How many types of snakes are mentioned in the poem?
2. List and describe them according to the poem



RAT



Small annoying animals

Able to reproduce every three weeks

With tails keeping them cool

Give them a room and they will occupy your house

Get rid at first sight

Small annoying animals

They say they come in different species

Some even jump up and down your house

Living inside your cupboards and kitchen cabinets

While some live amongst your photo frames on the shelves

Be careful of that small rat today

For if you give him access to your food barn

It will end up raising an annoying generation

While constantly leaving your barn a mess



Imagine

Some people even have them as pets

Some even call them lab rats

Where they tear the annoying bastards apart

All for the growth of science

Who cares anyway?

I know I don't

Even if they eat only what you allow them to

Some even say they spread diseases

And constitute a dirty environment

Fever here, fever there

Mother nature has designed it well

For those annoying bastards are also food to something else.

QUESTIONS

1. Why does the poet refer to rats as annoying animals?
2. What other words does the poet use to show his anger?



SNAIL



They are everywhere on earth

They are never fast

The fastest snail alive is the slowest of all

Perhaps the slow speed is a weakness

Preserverance is one of its strengths

Who can eat a snail with the shell?

You know the shell goes everywhere it goes

An animal that moves around with its house

Two antennas with eyes

To see and sight danger

Slow in movement but never in recoiling in its shell from

A touch by a human hand

A mystery dripping sticky substance

Sticky substance that can improve your skin

Whenever it is wet you can find them in abundance



Found everywhere but still expensive
A delicacy when washed with alum
Garnered with pepper
Add Onions sauce and fry
Grind the shell and make something of it
Bring out your pots and wash with it
Only the eggs you cannot eat
But you can breed with patience and care

QUESTIONS

1. Can you draw a snail?
2. Differentiate between sluggishness and patience?



LION



When not drawn on a paper
It is a very dangerous animal
A little contest whether it is the king of the jungle
Hands down it can take on most enemies by itself
No cap hardly can any prey survive its attack
You can see a lion take on the buffalo
An animal that weighs up almost twice its size
You can run as fast as you can
Be as funny as you want
If it is a short distance
You are meat
A lion never chases without aim
It sights an animal observes it and makes it its prey
Even if there are a thousand of them on sight
It goes for its prey first
Then chases luck may not be with the unlucky prey



Then its meal time

Every group of animal fears a pride

The king's family

When they hunt together

They form a formidable team

Who is an elephant?

The biggest land animal yes we know

Although powerful with it's relevantly slow speed

It is still meat for a pride

QUESTIONS

1. What emotion does a lion create?
2. Why is the lion regarded as the king of the jungle?



ANT



Small animals

Mysterious

Black red or brown

But not more

Wise and hardworking

Worthy of imitating by humans

Working day and night

Just to save for the rainy days

An ant doesn't just go about

It goes about specifically

There is strength in unity

Learn from the ants

What an ant cannot do alone

Five ants can

Always building for the colony



Communal living worthy of replicating

Beware of the soldier ant

Lest it finds it's way into your pants

Brand new dancing steps

They don't have to match the music

You must dance anyhow

When a soldier ant bites you

QUESTIONS

1. Why is an ant considered wise?
2. Have you been bitten by a soldier ant before? Narrate your experience



TORTOISE



It is slow

Annoyingly slow

Shell like rearranged broken China

Yes, so many folktales about its shell

Even as slow as he is

Rarely defeated in any of the stories

Hardly attacked by stronger preys

Hail the cunning tortoise

Better as an antique

Looks old naturally regardless of age

One problem is his pace

But none can hardly match his wisdom

Shell to protect

Whether heavy or light it goes everywhere

A mystical creature

They say it can outlive most animals



If you choose to be a tortoise
Perhaps you may lack speed
But let wisdom be your companion
Let wit be your associate.

QUESTIONS

1. If you are slow, you must be wise.
Explain this statement according to the poet's description of the tortoise
2. Why is a tortoise hardly attacked by stronger preys



COCKROACH



They call them roaches
Uninvited guests
But they are present anyways
From one roach to a hundred more

One scout is sent out
To sniff whether the environment is good or not
Watch out for your pots of food
Attain to cover the lid well
Lest you wake up and you find your uninvited special guests in it
Changing the sweet aroma of your food to their scent
And rendering your food a cockroach delight
And an irritable feeling in your chest

Never say never



Death even frowns at the job of killing it
All because it never dies so easily
Days after severing off the head
It still continues to writhe in pain
Till it is torn into pieces by ants
Small but opportunistic ants
Step on a cockroach and an odour stings your nose
Clean your environment and avoid a visit from roaches

QUESTIONS

1. What does the word 'uninvited guests' mean?
2. Personification is used somewhere in the poem. Locate it and explain what it means.



MOSQUITO



I hate their ringtone

They are always humming it

Whether there is food or not

Creator of sleepless nights

Choose between heat and mosquitoes

Choose between a night of discomfort and days of probable sickness

A mosquito can make an old man slap himself

Aiming for the mosquito on his cheek

Missing and landing himself a dirty slap

Two hurts

One from the mosquito bite

The other from slapping himself

Double-winged blood suckers

Mouths like needles

Stings that leave an itchy feeling



And yes you can scratch to the bones

One mosquito is a nightmare

Ten mosquitoes a disaster

Tiny monsters

Only a clean environment can eradicate them

QUESTIONS

1. Which do you prefer, mosquito or heat?
2. Why does the poet describe mosquitoes as tiny monsters?



CAT



My grandmother has a cat
She calls it Laura
She picks the cat up every now and then
And gently strokes its fur

A whiskered animal
Lazy
Barely making a sound
Unless hungry or in discomfort
Meow meow meow
Waiting to be poured a glass of milk
Or given fish
Leaving hair everywhere in the house



Constantly picking fights with the dog
For no reason they begin to quarrel
This house is mine the cat says
No it is mine the dog says
Mystical animals
Eyes dilated
Calm but calculative
They say it's back never touches the ground
Sleeping sideways but never laying on it's back
Fear them when they are wild
Their quest for blood is insatiable
Jumping fences and killing chickens
A sharp contrast to when they are a woman's friend

QUESTIONS

1. Why is a cat and a dog never friends?
2. Describe the word mystical



CROCODILE



Loved by many for its skin

Strong and thick leather for fashion

Feared by many for its teeth

Tearing preys apart like paper

We have heard stories

Stories of monster crocodiles

Craving human flesh

Tearing it apart like paper

How can a monster so feared

Be friended by a little bird?

It's a working relationship

I pick the insects off your body and you let me go

I scratch your back

You scratch mine

And when my belly is full



I leave you to get yours full

Mouth wide open

For hours one wonders what's going on

But it is a ploy

A ploy to attract breakfast lunch or dinner

The also say its jaw can crush a mid – sized sedan

The hunter is being hunted

Hunted for hide

Save the crocodile species

Look elsewhere for your fashion accessories.

QUESTIONS

1. How valuable is a crocodile skin?
2. What are monster crocodiles?



HORSE



A four legged work machine

A friend at home

An enemy to a stranger

A war companion to a soldier

Just look at the strength

Its strength our comfort

Galloping on the field

Leaping and braying with pleasure

Its hoofs making noise on concrete

Its mane looking royally like a rich woman's wig

Take a horse to the river by force

You can't ever force it to drink up

Stubborn and willing



Takes a mastermind to control it

Rugged for any weather

Ready for any assignment

Even till the point of death

A horse remains a ready help

A horse is harmless

Unless taught how to be wicked

Briddles in mouth

Pulled by master

Sometimes overloaded

But life must continue

Pity this beast pity this machine

Let it rest let it rest

QUESTIONS

1. Why are there contrasting words about the horse?
2. Repetition is used somewhere in the poem, locate it and explain.



SPIDER



Eight - legged creature

Celebrated elsewhere and mysterious elsewhere

Cunning

Who is your web master?

Spurning intricate patterns of webs

And luring its victims into them

Sometimes a sting is enough

Sometimes patience is needed

As the victims fight for their lives

The spider waits for them to die

Whether hairy or not

A spider is a spider

Whether digging the untarred ground for food

Creating webs or crawling on your walls

It is still a little creature that scares little children



Some say if you run into a web

It is a sign of ill luck

They say misfortune is on your way

Funny! Just look for a broom and clear the web

Then be on your way and have a different mindset

Let no spider web on your way stop you from achieving your dreams

QUESTIONS

1. Why is a spider considered scary by children?
2. What is the superstition about its web? Do you believe it?



ELEPHANT



What are you doing with such massive flesh?

No wonder it is the biggest land animal

Full of emotions

Very intelligent it never forgets

One elephant is a force to reckon with

Many is a monstrous invasion

We heard a group of hunter killed one

Then more came back to derail a whole train

Have you seen the love a mother elephant has for her kid?

Unconditional

Two ears flapping around

Sometimes blowing its horns while walking to call for others

Grounds shaking and the winds sending the trumpet sound far and wide

A bath in the river

The crocodile wetting his tongue and savouring the elephants meat



Full of appetite

But can it stop the elephant?

Just so you know an elephant breaks through every obstacle on its way

An obstacle that says an elephant shall not pass

The obstacle itself shall become earth for the elephant to walk on

Loved for her playfulness in water

Using trunks to pour water on herself and babies

Hunted for its ivory

Ivory cut for fashion purposes or displayed in museums

A monster that feeds on leaves

Even those that feed on flesh keep their safe distance

When she dies

The elephant is a feast for the jungle

Both land animals and birds celebrate

Food for all, flesh picked to the bones

Licked clean till bones become dust and blown away

Or become manure for earth.

QUESTIONS

1. Who is an elephant in the room?
2. How valuable is the tusk of an elephant?



GIRAFFE



Slender and tall

Can easily win a beauty pageant amongst animals

Face tenderly constructed

Four slender legs any model would cherish

Slender and muscular

Born beautiful

With stripes adding to the beauty

And two horns adorning the head

Is it its height?

Or the way it walks elegantly?

Or the graceful way its mouth moves when it feeds?

It must be the way it runs

Finally I see it

It is it's long neck



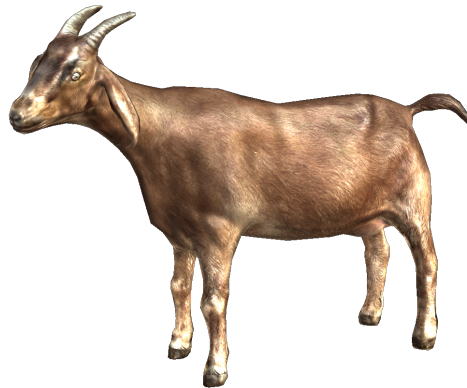
Proudly admired and idolised by learners
If you have a girrafe neck
You must be good at copying from others
A giraffe's long neck is a treasure
That's why it can eat from the ground
And from the tree
Fighting off enemies with its hoots
Or locking its neck with another giraffe
Once the jungle beasts choose it for food
It is still meat.

QUESTIONS

1. Honestly, do you think the giraffe is beautiful?
2. Why is 'giraffing' popular amongst learners?



GOAT



Wherever you tell the goat not to go

Is where it goes

Whatever you tell the goat not to do

Is what it does

Beat it a thousand times

It never listens

Scream another thousand times

It runs and comes back

Pay attention to your dried cassava chops

The goat loves it much

Littering everywhere with it's dark droppings

The urine stinks

Its bleating is annoying



Especially when mother calls to child
Or when child calls to mother
Two boys can even lock horns
And fight it out
Or a boy can chase a girl around in heat
Making a noise registering its desires
Its desires to multiply life
But at the end of the day
Whether Male or female, young or old
They must end up in a pot of delicious goat soup.
Bleh bleh bleh and you still end up in the pot

QUESTIONS

1. Stubborn as a goat.
 - a. What expression is this?
 - b. What does it mean?
2. Alliteration is used in the poem. Can you locate instances?



TIGER



A feline

Largest of that nature

Weighing up to six men

And difficult to survive a paw's attack

Resting somewhere in the day time

And hunting at night.

Pity the cubs

Who are born blind

Needing to follow their mother's scent to survive

Some do and others don't

Water lovers

Good swimmers



Sometimes having water fun

Or just hunting

There is an ambush somewhere

You can also call them a streak

Tigers!

So they can mate with other big cats?

Look at that hybrid

It is called a Tigon

Look at another one

It is called a Liger

Humans buy antiseptics

Tigers manufacture them

Their saliva is a miracle

Serves as a disinfectant

What an humble species

A tiger hardly roars

Even allowing the cubs and tigresses to eat first

Talk of love and sacrifice



The urine smells nice
Like buttered popcorn
So a tiger is hungry for a rabbit
All a tiger does is imitate the sound of one
Deceiving the naive rabbit
Till the rabbit is snapped up
Some preys only die at the paw
For some the tiger goes for the jugular.

QUESTIONS

1. Describe animals regarded as feline
2. List three amazing things about the tiger



HYENA



Great hunters

Powerful colossal masseter

Scavenging or killing for themselves

A hyena is a smart hunter

Multum in parvo

Mid-sized hunters bringing down bigger preys

Heavyweight hunters

Loving the kill or the steal

Call the babies pups or cubs

They are precocial

Eyes open teeth set muscles ready

All set to hunt



Mother hyenas are great mothers
None can match their mothering skills
Investing on each cub separately
Making sure the cub is well catered for
Have you heard a laugh lately?
Or a giggle?
Perhaps thought to be foolish too?
Let this shock you
A hyena is intelligent
Curious
Inquisitive
And solving problems

You can spot a laughing hyena
Or a giggling one
Think fast on the next course
If none then run.

QUESTIONS



1. What is a colossal masseter?

2. Describe a precocial animal



OSTRICH



The largest living bird

So large nothing compares when it spreads its wings

As fast as this bird is

A little sad thing balances the equation

It cannot fly

Imagine if this could fly

With the size and agility

The sky would be a terror for other birds

Everything about it is different

Eyes so big

Legs so tall



And eggs so big they can satisfy a grown man
What about the shell?
Good for fashion
What about speed?
Goodluck catching up with the Usain Bolt of the its species
Boasting of three stomachs
You wonder what kind of animal this is
Other birds urinate and defecate the same time
Everything coming out at once
The ostrich does it's own one after the other
As it comes
Never all at once
Find time
Go see an ostrich
When you see one
Make sure you take a picture
Because it is going to be a moment to remember

QUESTIONS

1. What is the sad thing that balances the equation according to the poem?
2. Why is the ostrich different from other birds?



MONKEY



A Play boy of the jungle

Equally playful whether on ground or trees

Especially a spider monkey

Hanging on trees with its limbs and tail

With its ability to communicate through various means

One will be lost as what a monkey says

With its face noise or body language

Say hi to the pygmy marmoset

The smallest monkey in the world

Delicate but still a monkey

A monkey is a monkey whether big or small

When you see a tribe

Be friendly

They are animals and not daft



Hold out a banana with smiles

For they can also smell fear

Terror or intimidation

They will protect their troop

They will guard their mission

Just like every human would

Howler monkeys are the loudest

Loudest of all the land mammals

Snow monkeys are known to bathe in hot water

Enjoy it while it lasts

Once a daring hunter calls

Whether big or small there is its size of chain

Or cage

Home

Or zoo

Its future lies in the hands of its master



QUESTIONS

1. How many types of monkeys are mentioned in the poem?
2. How words have been used to describe their family?
List them

