

CLASS-VII
SUBJECT-ENGLISH
POEM-A SQUIRREL

THE SQUIRREL


POET:MILDRED BOWERS ARMSTRONG



- **Have you seen a squirrel?**
- **Where does it live?**
- **What did it look like?**

POEM

The Squirrel

 You may have seen a squirrel sitting on the ground eating a nut. What did it look like? Here is a poet's description of just such a squirrel.

He wore a question mark for tail,
An overcoat of gray,
He sat up straight to eat a nut,
He liked to tease and play,
And if we ran around his tree,
He went the other way.

MILDRED BOWERS ARMSTRONG



NEW WORDS

Overcoat	a protective coating/layer
Straight	directly
Tease	irritate by persistent acts

SUMMARY

In the **poem 'The Squirrel'** the **poet** Mildred Bowers Armstrong describes **a squirrel** that he observes in his garden. The **poet** describes how **the squirrel**, covered in gray fur, sits in an upright position on a tree branch eating a nut. His tail looks like a question mark because of its bent shape. The squirrel likes to tease children who tries to catch it and plays with them. But if somebody comes near it's tree, it runs away from there.

Link to the explanation of the poem :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoFE4ifKQbc&t=102s>



TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

Question 1:

Why does the poet say the squirrel “wore a question mark for the tail”? Draw a squirrel, or find a picture of a squirrel sitting on the ground. How would you describe its tail?

Answer:

The poet says that the squirrel wore a question mark for its tail because the shape of a squirrel’s tail resembles a question mark.

Question 2:

Do we usually say that an animal 'Wears' a tail? What do we say? (Think: Does an animal wear a coat? Consult a dictionary if you like, and find out how 'wear' is used in different ways.)

Answer:

Usually, it is said that an animal 'has' a tail. The poet has used 'wore' in the poem in order to make an image of what he saw. This is an example of imagery.

The use of the word 'wear' in different situations can be shown with the help of the following sentences:

- My friend was wearing yellow on Sunday.
- Our Science teacher always wears a smile.
- Movie stars wear their hair in different ways.

Question 3:

“He liked to tease and play”. Who is teasing whom? How?

Answer:

The squirrel is teasing the poet and his friends. When they ran around its tree, it went the other way.

H.W. Draw a squirrel and colour it

