

Chapter 4

Triantiwantigongolop

Word

Meaning

Spy ⇒ to keep close and secret watch, to catch sight of.

Grub ⇒ larva of an insect

Appetite ⇒ a desire for food or drink.

Softly ⇒ lightly, in a caring manner.

Heavily ⇒ good, requiring abundant food.

Mope ⇒ to move around slowly and aimlessly, feeling dejected and sad or depressed.

Answer these questions with reference to the context.

1. When first you come upon it, it will give you quite a scare.

a. What does 'it' refer to? to the insect.

b. Why will it give you 'quite a scare'?
Because it looked odd and unusual.

(c) What will happen when you look for it again?
It will be gone.

2. But of course course you have not seen it; and I truthfully confess....

(a) What have you not seen?
We have not seen the insect Triantiwantigongolop.

(b) Why have you not seen it?
Because it is an imaginary insect.

(c) What does the poet confess?
The poet confesses that the insect does not exist and it was a joke.

3. For there isn't such an insect, though there really might have been.....

(a) Which insect is being referred to here?
The Triantiwantigongolop.

(b) When do you think it 'might have been'?
When the grasses were purple and the sky bottle green.

(c) Where do you think this insect exists?
In the imagination of the poet.

D. **Answer these questions:**

1. How does the poet describe the insect's appearance?

The insect is not like a spider or a fly. It is something like a beetle and a little like a bee.

2. What does the poet say about the insect's nature and behaviour?

The insect has a good appetite. It lives on leaves of plants. It is shy and it has funny face. It would move away if not called softly. It likes to be called by its name. It purrs when called by name and given sandwiches to eat.

3. What would happen if one scolded the insect?

It will scuttle off in shame.

4. What shows you that the insect loves itself?

The insect loves to be called by its name. It reacts by making a purr sound. It likes to eat sandwiches made of wax and soap.

5. How do you know that this is an imaginary creature?

The poet truthfully confesses that he was joking and no insect of this kind existed. It was in his imagination only.

6. What does the speaker apologise for?

The poet apologises because he was making us believe in the first two stanzas that there is an insect like Triantwontigongolope. But, in the last stanza he confesses that there was no such insect and it was his own creation in imagination.