



## New Document 1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Time: **14 minutes**

Marks: **10 marks**

Comments:

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1

# CAT

*Judith Nicholls*

My cat's tail  
can dance or beckon  
whilst he sleeps,  
can wave or threaten,  
fall or rise.



Warily  
it lies awake,  
all on its own;  
he wakes,  
it lies forgotten.  
It lies alone,  
quite separate -  
or so it seems.



Could it be the place  
where, secretly,  
his life goes on?  
A space to hide for ever  
a million catty dreams?

2.

What part of the cat is the poem about?

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1 mark

2. What happens when the cat is asleep?

the cat  
purrs

its whiskers  
twitch

its tail  
moves

its tongue  
comes out

1 mark

3. Find and copy three words from the first verse that tell you how its tail moves.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

1 mark

4. In the first verse ...*can dance or beckon*...

Give the meaning of the word *beckon*.

\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark

5. *Warily*  
*it lies awake,*  
*all on its own;*

Explain what these lines in the second verse mean.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2 marks

5. Look at the last verse.

According to the poem, what could the cat's tail be for?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2 marks

7. Did the poem make you think differently about cats?

Explain your answer.

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2 marks

## Mark schemes

**2**

### ***Cat***

- 1 Award **1 mark** for reference to the cat's tail. **1 mark**
  
- 2 its tail moves **1 mark**
  
- 3 Award **1 mark** if **THREE or more** of the following correct responses are given (do not award half marks):
  - dance
  - beckon
  - wave
  - threaten
  - fall
  - rise**1 mark**
  
- 4 Award **1 mark** for an explanation that refers to summoning something to come closer.  
e.g. it means come here. **1 mark**
  
- 5 Award **2 marks** for answers which describe the cat's tail as something distinct and separate from the cat itself, which seems to be awake or on watch when the cat is asleep.  
  
For example:
  - the tail has not stopped and gone to sleep with the cat because it's still moving
  - it means that the cat's tail wags around on its own while the cat is asleep
  - it means that the tail is nothing to do with the cat.
  - It's got a life of its own.Award **1 mark** for answers which express something of this idea.  
  
For example:
  - the cat's tail is awake but the cat isn't
  - its tail doesn't sleep when the cat is**up to 2 marks**

- 6 Award **2 marks** for answers which refer to the cat's tail as being the secret centre of the cat's life; where its dreams are held.

For example:

- the author thinks the cat's tail is where secretly its life goes on and where he hides his dreams
- the author thinks the cat's tail secretly makes and hides dreams for the cat

Award **1 mark** for answers which directly quote the relevant part of the poem without explanation.

For example:

- to hide forever a million catty dreams
- where secretly his life goes on

**up to 2 marks**

- 7 Answers should have a direct relationship to the poem.

Award **2 marks** if the opinion refers to some aspect(s) of the poem and gives an explanation as to why this made them think differently or otherwise about cats.

For example:

- yes - because now I will wonder what goes on in a tail when a cat is asleep
- yes - because I didn't think they would sleep with their tail wagging and I didn't think they would dream
- no - because I have two cats and I have often wondered the same thing about their tails

Award **1 mark** for a partial explanation.

For example

- yes - because I've never thought about a cat's tail before
- no - because cats don't have dreams

**up to 2 marks**