

ABOUT THE POEM

In the poem, the poet describes a squirrel that she observes in her garden. She describes how the squirrel, sitting on a tree branch is eating a nut. The poet also tells us about the nature of the squirrel that it is innocently naughty and likes to tease anyone who comes near him.

POEM THE 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



ABOUT THE POET

Mildred Bowers Armstrong (1901–1984)

Born in Chicago in the year 1901, Mildred Bowers Armstrong was a children's book author in the 1950's. Mildred Bowers earned her Bachelor's degree from North Western University in 1923. She also studied at Mount Holyoke College, the University of Chicago and the University of Wisconsin. Bowers titled her first volume of poetry, *Twist O' Smoke*, after the pseudonym she used in college and won the Yale Youngsters Poets Prize in 1928. She died in 1984.

BRAIN STORM

A. Answer the following questions. (See Worksheet for Answers)

1. Write a short summary of the poem in your own words?
2. In the poem, why does the poet say the squirrel "Wore a question mark for tail"?
3. Describe the squirrel's tail while it is sitting on the ground in your own words.
4. Is it usually said that an animal 'wears' a tail? If no, then what and how it is said? (Use dictionary to know how 'wear' can be used in different ways.)
5. Explain the line, "He liked to tease and play".

Answer Key
Class VII
Poem 1 The Squirrel

Exercise A)

1. The poem is about a naughty, little squirrel who like to play and eat his food. Also, he doesn't like to get disturbed. As we try to go near him, he tries to escape from us.
2. The poet said so because the tail of the squirrel is in the shape of a question mark.
3. When it sits on the ground, the tail is stretched upon the ground in a straight position.
4. No, an animal usually has a tail.
5. He liked to run around and play with every litrle thing on the ground.