

1C

TOOMAI OF THE ELEPHANT* Interpreting the poem:

A.

1) Where do you think this elephant is? Where does it wish to go?

→ The elephant is in captivity where it is made to work for food and tortured to obey. It wishes to escape to its home in the wild.

2) I will remember my old strength and all my forest affairs. What do 'old strength' and 'forest affairs' refer to?

→ "Old strength" refers to strength of his freedom. "Forest affairs" refer to free life in the wild.

3) Out of the winds' untained kiss, the waters' clean caress. Explain the meaning of this line.

→ 'Out of the winds' untained kiss, the waters' clean caress refer to the elephant's free life when he would feel the breeze on his skin and bathe happily in the clean waters that refreshed him.

4) What has the elephant been doing for its masters.

→ The elephant has been enslaved to carry load on its back for its human masters.

B.

1) In your opinion, how does the elephant feel about its master?

→ The elephant wishes to be free from the enslaved life, the ankle chain and the sharp picket stake that his master uses on him. He also does not wish to sell his back for a bundle of sugarcane.

- 2) What does the elephant feel about its earlier days in the jungle? What would it remember the most?
- He reminisces his own kind, the free air and the calming waters of the jungle. He remembers his lost love and playmates.

C.

- 1) Where do you think animals are happier - in the jungles where they are free to hunt for food or in zoos where they are looked after and given enough food but are caged or kept in captivity.
- Animals are happiest in the wild where they get to live with their natural instincts, look for their own food and live among their own kind. In zoos, although they get food, they are caged and removed from their own kind and kept in small enclosures, which are not an ideal life.