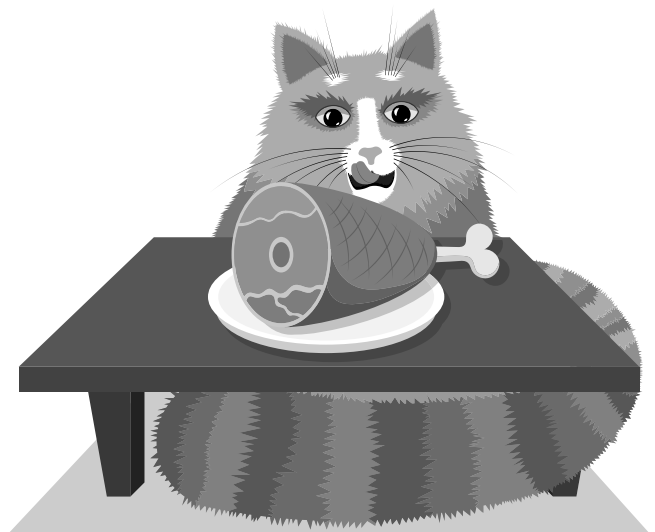


# Greedy Sam

There was a cat whose name was Sam  
Who loved to pilfer chunks of ham.  
With cunning, stealth and dextrous claws  
He'd open bins and cupboard doors  
All to find this scrumptious treat  
He'd stuff himself until replete.  
He'd scavenge ham for lunch and tea  
He even dragged it secretly  
To the garden  
Within the shed  
Hidden beneath his owner's bed ...

His owner Freddy  
Became annoyed  
With diverse punishments he bravely toyed  
To try to hinder naughty Sam  
From stealing all the cuts of ham.

It happened that one Winter's day  
Freddy's Mum did come to stay.  
A kindly lady  
Full of joy  
Who loved to see her special boy!  
Armed with bulging bags of treats  
Fruit and veg and sticky sweets  
Yoghurts, puddings  
Delicious jam  
And in a box ... a joint of ham ...



Curled on the sofa  
Sam's eyes gleamed,  
At this simply luscious scene.  
His nostrils twitched  
As through the gloom  
The scent of ham infused the room.  
Quick as a flash the naughty beast  
Stalked towards the glorious feast.

His nostrils twitched  
His ginger fur rippled  
His desire for ham  
Suddenly tripled.

Now Sam was quick  
And Sam was able,  
He swiped the ham  
Clean off the table.  
Before poor Freddy could protest  
Sam had succeeded in his quest.

Through the cat flap  
He deftly squeezed  
Tugged the ham with focused ease ...  
Across the lawn ...  
Up to the farm  
And hid inside the ancient barn.

Once hidden far from prying eyes  
Sam devoured the ham ...  
It was unwise.  
Within the hour  
He felt quite queasy  
His stomach churned  
He felt uneasy.

To his alarm his paws and tail  
Began to swell and turn quite pale  
Sam staggered upright feeling seedy  
He wished he hadn't been so greedy.

He wondered if he'd last the night  
The idea gave him quite a fright ...  
He curled himself into a heap  
Closed his eyes and went to sleep ...

To Sam's relief  
He woke next day  
Snuggled in a mound of hay.  
His bloated paws and tail had vanished  
Poor Sam's fears were quickly banished.  
Sam's ears twitched, he heaved a sigh,  
He was down to eight of his nine lives!  
He sighed and stretched his aching bones  
Then padded smartly back for home.

Since this event our greedy Sam  
Has never touched a slice of ham.  
So hearken cats do heed advice,  
Avoid the ham and stick to mice!



## Questions

1. What of these words best describes what Sam is like? Tick **one**.  
A. foolish .....  C. obese .....   
B. light-clawed .....  D. greedy .....
2. Look at this sentence from the passage:  
*'All to find this scrumptious treat  
He'd stuff himself until replete.'*  
What does the word '*replete*' tell you about how Sam is currently feeling?  

---
3. What was **one effect** that happened to Sam when he ate all of Freddy's Mum's ham?  

---
4. Which place is not given for where Sam hid? Tick **one**.  
A. garden .....  C. shed .....   
B. kitchen .....  D. bed .....
5. How do we know that Sam is not a well-behaved cat?  

---
6. The poem states:  
*'His owner Freddy  
Became annoyed  
With diverse punishments he bravely toyed ...'*  
Which of these statements best describes what is meant by '*bravely toyed*'?  
Tick **one**.  
A. It means he thought about what he could do although not really seriously. ....   
B. It means he played around with the best possible options for what he could do. ....   
C. It means he had no idea how to deal with Sam. ....   
D. It means he tried hard to be strong and find a punishment. ....

7. We are told about Sam:

*'He wondered if he'd last the night  
The idea gave him quite a fright ...'*

What do you think this means Sam was actually worried about?

---

---

8. Number these statements from 1–6 in the order in which they happen in the poem.

A. Hidden from prying eyes, Sam devours Freddy's Mum's ham.	
B. Freddy's Mum comes to stay ...	
C. Freddy tries to find punishments ...	
D. Sam has never touched ham again.	
E. Curled on the sofa Sam's eyes gleamed ...	
F. There was a cat whose name was Sam ...	

9. We know that Sam is greedy, but what other impressions do you get about him from the poem? Give **two impressions**.

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

10. Predict what you think might have happened had Sam been caught by Freddy? Give **two predictions**.

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

11. Draw lines to match each part of the poem with its main content.

A. suspense
B. action
C. character
D. mood
E. setting

<i>'Curled on the sofa'</i>
<i>'To Sam's relief He woke next day ...'</i>
<i>'He swiped the ham clean off the table ...'</i>
<i>'Freddy's Mum ... A kindly lady ...'</i>
<i>'He wondered if he'd last the night ...'</i>

12. Look at the part of the poem which begins, *'through the cat flap he deftly squeezed ...'* What impression of the cat do you get from these lines? Give **two impressions**.

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

13. How does the following extract create a feeling of calculated intent?

*'Curled on the sofa  
Sam's eyes gleamed,  
At this simply luscious scene.  
His nostrils twitched  
As through the gloom ...'*

---

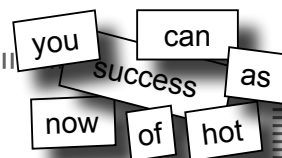
---

---

**Answer the following questions with complete sentences:**

14. What do you think is the main message of the poem?  
15. How does the poet make the ham appear really good to eat?  
16. How does Sam's mood change at the end of the poem, compared with at the beginning?

## Word work



1. Write a short definition for each of these words.
- |                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| A. scrumptious | E. replete  |
| B. dextrous    | F. deftly   |
| C. pilfer      | G. devoured |
| D. stealth     |             |
2. Find and copy **one word** from the poem which is a **synonym** for delicious.
- 
3. Find and copy **one word** from the poem which is a **synonym** for pervade.
- 
4. Find and copy **one word** from the poem which is an **antonym** for famished.
-



## Extension work

### Class Discussion

1. How does the way in which Sam goes through the cat flap tell you this is something he has done before?
2. Would you punish Sam or would you do something different?
3. Do you think Sam should be punished for stealing the ham? Is it his fault?
4. What do we learn about the relationship between Freddy and his Mum?

### Small Group or Pair Discussion

5. Can you think of three other places Sam might like to hide to eat his ham?
6. What do you think Freddy and his Mum might have said to each other when Sam vanished with the ham?
7. What type of area do you think Freddy lives in? How do you know this?

### Design/Create

8. Draw what you think the barn and area around look like.
9. Draw a map of where Sam lives in relation to the farm and label it. Add in the various places he drags the ham across.
10. Draw a picture of what you think Sam looks like.
11. Create a 'wanted' poster for Sam.

### Write

12. Write a short playscript to show the conversation between Freddy and his Mum when Sam took the ham.
13. Imagine you are Sam and write a diary entry to describe the events of the day when you stole the ham.
14. Imagine you are Freddy's Mum. Write a letter to one of your friends describing your journey to Freddy's house and then describe the awful events of the theft of the ham.
15. Write a piece of cautionary verse of your own on a topic of your choice.

### Investigate/Research

16. Research more about cautionary verse and the messages they give.
17. Research why people wrote cautionary verse.
18. Read some famous cautionary verses by Hilaire Belloc.
19. Imagine that Sam is being interviewed on television. What questions do you think you would ask him and what responses would he give?