
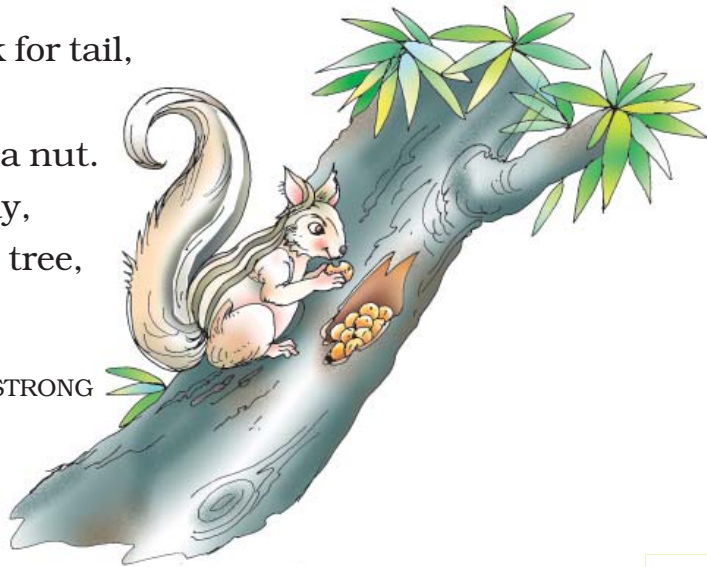


The Squirrel

 You may have seen a squirrel sitting on the ground eating a nut. What did it look like? Here is a poet's description of just such a 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



Working with the Poem

1. Why does the poet say the squirrel “wore a question mark for tail”? Draw a squirrel, or find a picture of a squirrel sitting on the ground. How would you describe its tail?
2. Do we usually say that an animal ‘wears’ a tail? What do we say? (*Think:* Does an animal wear a coat? Consult a dictionary if you like, and find out how ‘wear’ is used in different ways.)
3. “He liked to tease and play”. Who is teasing whom? How ?