

WORKSHEET

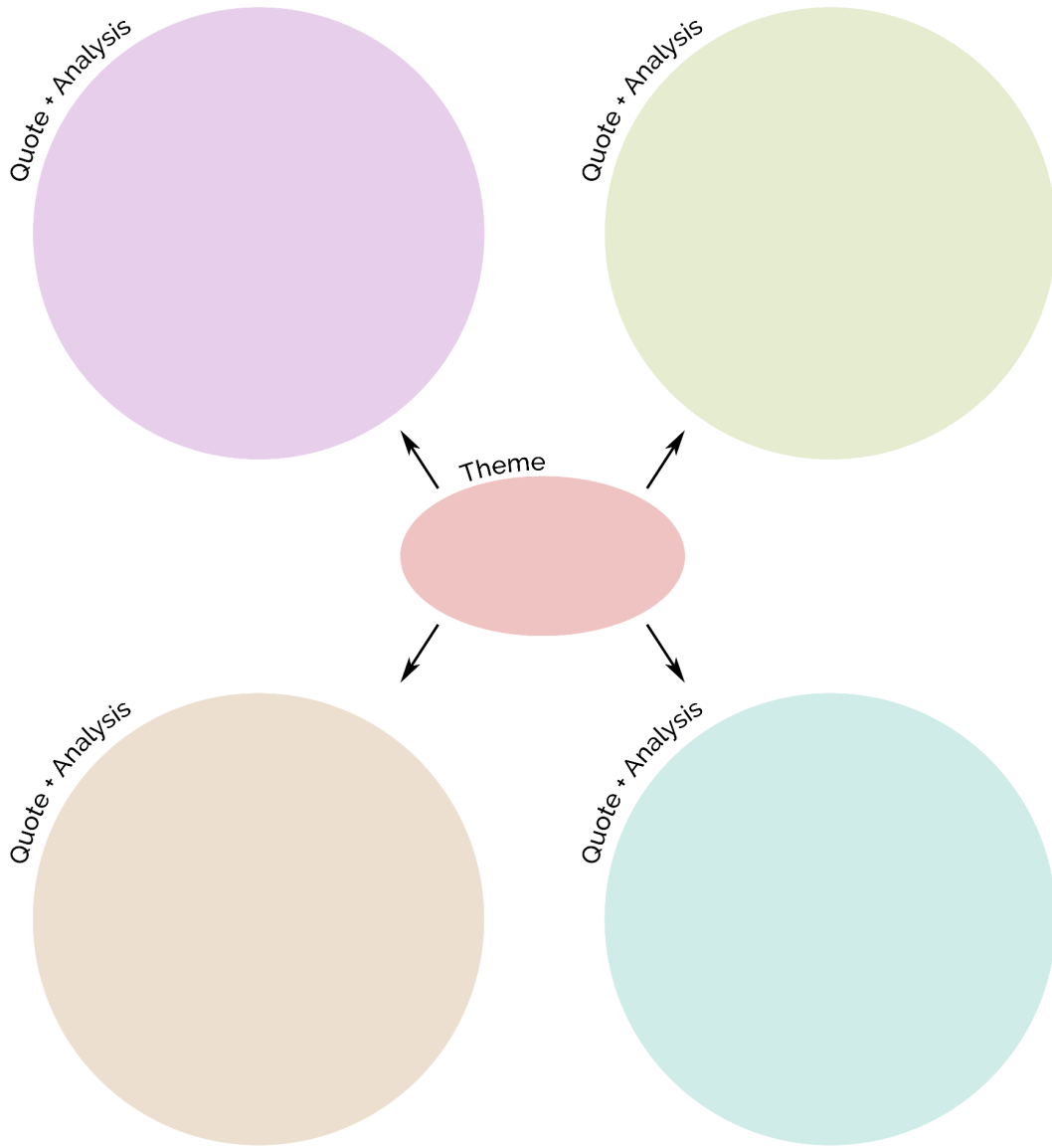
Cat and Mouse

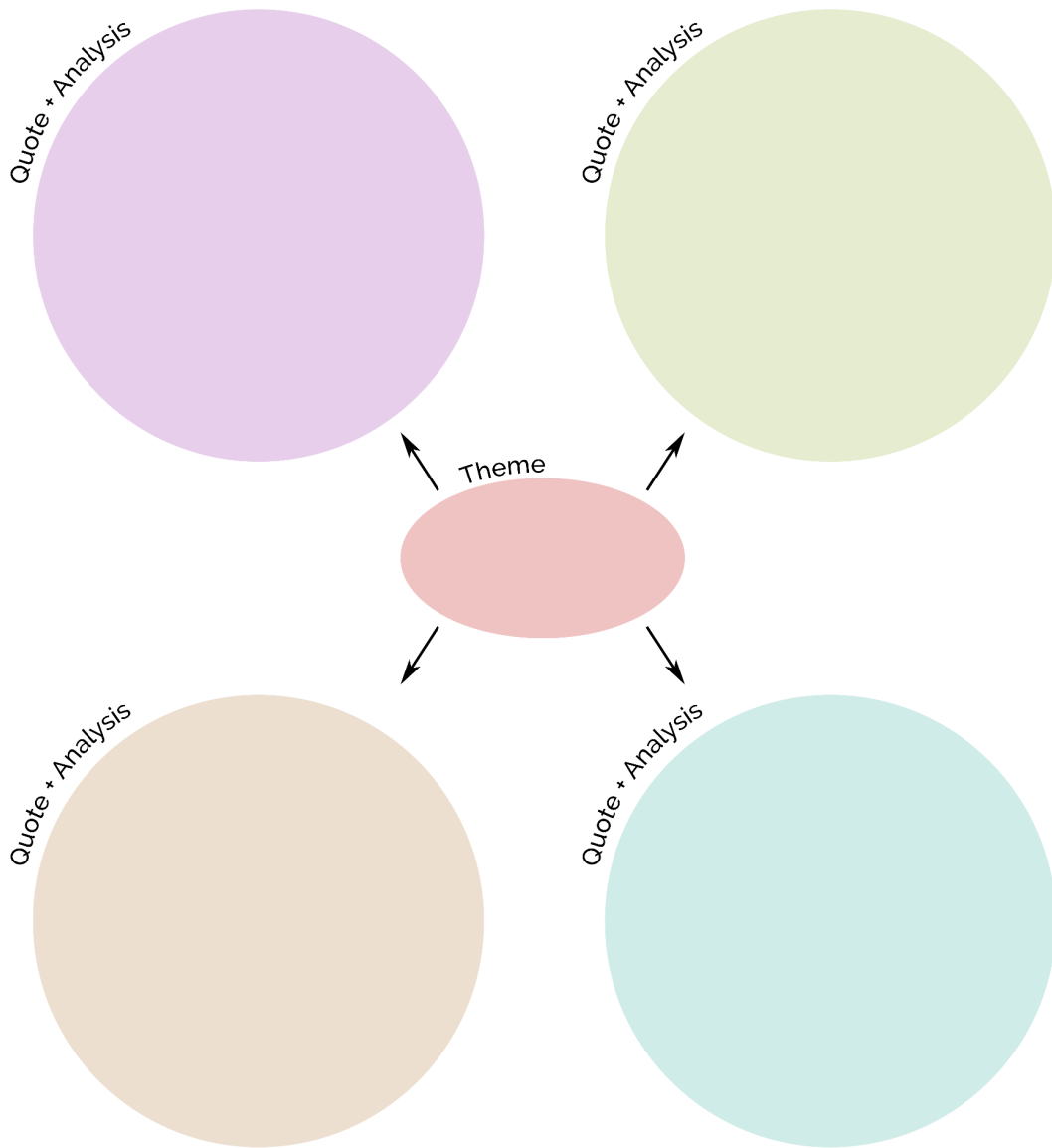
Ted Hughes

TASKS

1a. Pick two of these themes, then make a mind map for each by adding four separate quotations from the story that relate to them. Make short notes of analysis, explaining how and why each one relates to your theme.

- Fate
- God
- Fear
- Nature
- Death
- Religion
- Predator - Prey Relationships
- Perspective
- Time and Space





1b. What, in your opinion, is the author’s final message or statement about each theme that you chose?

3. Write your own poem about a cat and a mouse. Try to use a range of imagery and poetic devices. How is it similar or different from Hughes' poem?

4. Explore your own ideas on fate vs free will. Do you think we have much choice in life about what we become and how we live? Why/ why not? You can include your personal beliefs about religion in your answer.

EXERCISES

1. Tension and anxiety are key emotions portrayed in this poem. Describe 3 ways in which the structure or language of the poem creates tension.

2. Explain, with references to the poem, what you think the key message is of Cat and Mouse.

3. Nature is described vividly in the poem and is used to set the scene. Pick one poetic device used in the poem to describe the environment, and explain why the use of this device makes the description effective.

4. The cat, one of the title figures, is only mentioned directly in the very last word of the poem. Why do you think the poet chose to do so, and what effect does it have?

PRACTICE ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. Examine the themes of fate and God explored in the poem through the figures of the cat and the mouse. Include whether you agree with the poet's view of fate as described in the poem.
2. Analyse the parallels between nature and human life described in 'Cat and Mouse', and one other you have studied. Consider structure, language and context.
3. "We feel no pity for the mouse in the poem because he is just part of the natural life cycle." To what extent do you agree with this interpretation?