

## 11. The Cabin of Mystery Month January

— James N. Whitt

Answer the following questions with reference to the context.

No trail leads to this cabin,  
not even a blaze on a tree,  
hidden beneath the tall dark firs  
is this cabin of mystery.

What does 'a blaze on a tree' suggest?  
A blaze on a tree would suggest a marked trail or a visible sign guiding people to the cabin.

Give a reason why nobody can find this cabin!  
Nobody can find this cabin because there is no trail leading to it and there are no visible markers like a blaze on a tree.

Why does the poet call the cabin mysterious?  
The poet calls the cabin mysterious because it is hidden beneath the tall dark firs with no known builder or purpose and no visible signs of its existence.

No one knew its builder  
or when this cabin was made  
Not one of the oldest trappers  
can explain or give any aid

a. According to the above lines, what is the mystery of the cabin?

id: The mystery of the cabin from these lines is that nobody knows who built it or when it was made.

b. Why does the poet feel that an old trapper might have known about the cabin's secret?

id: The poet feels that an old trapper might have known because trappers have extensive knowledge of the wilderness and its secrets.

c. Explain the line: 'Can explain or give any aid'

Ans: The line means that even the oldest trappers, who possess vast experience and knowledge, are unable to shed light on the cabin's mysteries.

3. But perhaps when we cross the border  
And step aboard death's train;

The secrets of hills and mountains,

To us will then lie plain.



Why does the poet use the word 'perhaps' in the above stanza?

The moon looks through the gaps between the bamboo.

Who will step on death's train?

The white lotus appears to change into a cup of silver when the moonlight shines on it. This transformation is a metaphorical comparison that highlights the beauty and enchantment of the scene.

What will we learn when we step on death's train?

The reference of Eden is to the biblical garden of Eden, which symbolizes a perfect, pristine and idyllic paradise.

II Answer the following questions.

Q1. List the three things in the cabin that could have given a clue about its owner.

Ans. Three things in the cabin that could have given a clue to the owner are a name

on the door-jamb, initials cut in the wall or a calendar hanging by the window

Q2 Name the three things in nature that might know the secret of the cabin

A: The three things in nature that might know the secret of the cabin are the hills, the trails and the streams, which hold their own undisclosed stories.

Q3 Explain the lines:

'We can only guess at the answer  
And perhaps it's just as well.'

A: The lines suggest that the answer to the mystery may never be known and it is better to embrace the unknown and allow our imaginations to speculate.

Q4 When will the mystery of the cabin be solved?

A: The mystery of the cabin will potentially be solved when the poet, using the



metaphor of crossing the border and boarding death's train, suggests that in death, the secrets of the hills and mountains, including those of the cabin, may become clear.

## Answer in Detail

Q. Give reasons why the owner of the cabin cannot be a trapper or a prospector.

A. The owner cannot be a trapper because there are no traps or stretchers in the cabin, which are essential tools for trapping.

The owner also cannot be a prospector because there is no prospector's pick or shovel present, which are essential tools for prospecting.

Q. 10/11/20