



Class - 12<sup>th</sup>

# Aunt jennifer's tigers

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for  
**100/100**  
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# AUNT JENNIFER'S TIGERS

## About the Poet : Adrienne Rich

- She is an American poet, essayist and radical feminist.
- She is known for her involvement in contemporary women's movement as a poet and theorist.
- A strong resistance to racism and militarism echoes through her work.
- In this poem, the lady has addressed the issue of male dominance.
- The poem has brought out the struggles & conflicts of a woman to go in male chauvinistic society.



## Explanation

### Stanza 1

Aunt Jennifer is creating images of tiger on tapestry. And when she looks them it seemed like those tigers are jumping or moving in a spirited manner. Those tigers are bright yellow coloured and are inhabitants of the green forests. They are not scared of the men standing under the tree. They move with grace, elegance and confidence because they are fearless.

Aunt Jennifer on other hand is just opposite of this fearless character. She wants to be free from fear patriarchy.

### Stanza 2

Her fingers were trembling that she found it hard to pull every the ivory needle. This explains her fear from her husband. She has turned weak and so



terrorised that unable to carry the weight of the needle. The Uncle's wedding band is her wedding ring which now seems heavy on her hand. She is burdened with marital responsibilities that is a burden on her and seems heavy.

### Stanza 3

This stanza says that even death will not be able to release Aunt Jennifer from the dominance and all the troubles she was facing. Her life is a story of unpleasant or painful experiences. But the tigers she has created are eternal. They will always be proud and unafraid.

### Poetic Devices

**Transferred epithet** → 'terrified hands'

**Irony** → a weak & submissive woman waving picture of tigers.

**Alliteration** → fingers fluttering

**Imagery** → Bright topaz denizens in the world of green

**Metaphor** → 'Bright topaz'

**Symbolism** → Heavy wedding band tigers as untamed free spirited.

**Personification** → pride, confidence human qualities given to tiger.

**Hyperbola** → Exaggeration of **heavy wedding bond**.