

Poem Name-The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Class- X

Subject - English (First Flight)

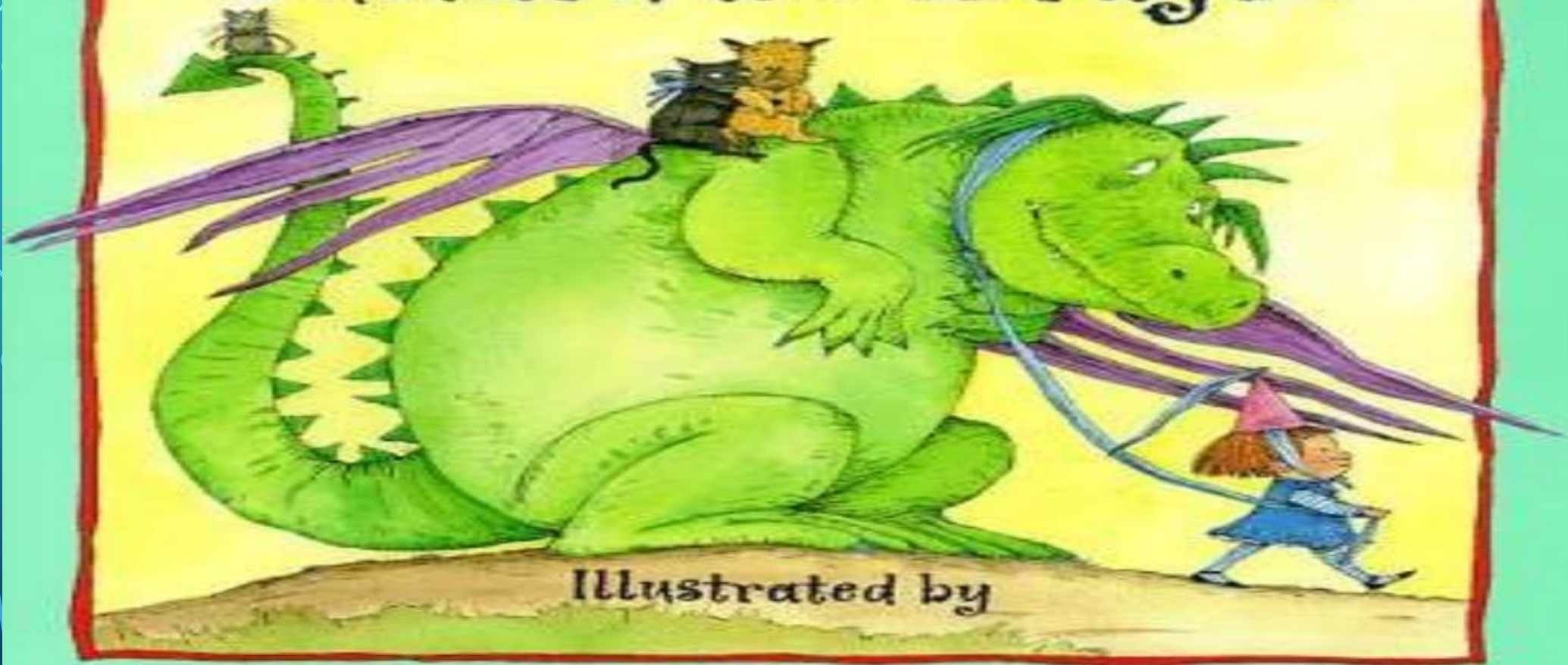
Module- 1/1

Poem No.- 10

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— Ogden Nash —

THE TALE OF
Custard the Dragon



Illustrated by

— Lynn Munsinger —



Frederic Ogden Nash (1902-1971) was an American poet famous for his light verse. He was known as the producer of humorous poetry. He received Sarah Josepha Hale Award in 1964.

*Belinda lived in a little white house,
With a little black kitten and a little gray
mouse,
And a little yellow dog and a little red
wagon,
And a realio, trulio, little pet dragon.*



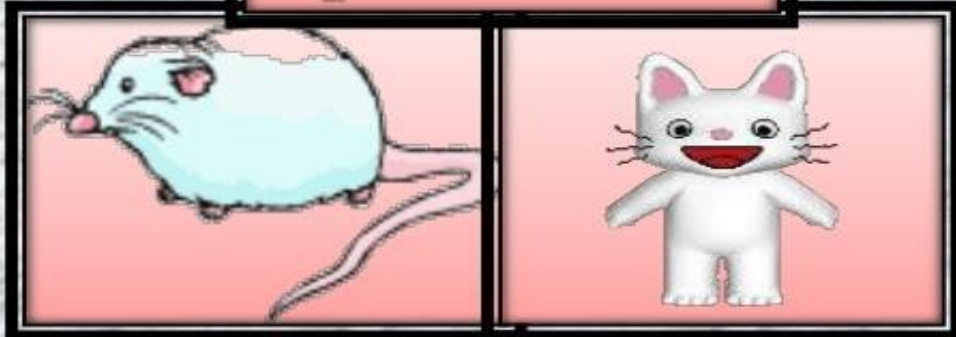
*Now the name of the little black kitten
was Ink,
And the little gray mouse, she called
her Blink,
And the little yellow dog was sharp as
Mustard,
But the dragon was a coward, and she
called him Custard.*

wagon



Realio, truly

*Custard the dragon had big sharp teeth,
And spikes on top of him and scales
underneath,
Mouth like a fireplace, chimney for a
nose,
And realio, trulio, daggers on his toes.*



*Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of
bears,
And Ink and Blink chased lions down
the stairs,
Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a
rage,
But Custard cried for a nice safe cage.*



Spikes : sharp nails

Scales : hard skin

Daggers : knives

Barrel : container

Rage : anger

*Belinda tickled him, she tickled him
unmerciful,
Ink, Blink and Mustard, they rudely
called him Percival,
They all sat laughing in the little red
wagon
At the realio, trulio, cowardly dragon.*



*Belinda giggled till she shook the
house,
And Blink said Wee!, which is
giggling for a mouse,
Ink and Mustard rudely asked his age,
When Custard cried for a nice safe
cage.*



Giggled : laugh

Weeck :

laughing sound

*Suddenly, suddenly they heard a nasty sound,
And Mustard growled, and they all looked around.
Meowch! cried Ink, and Ooh! cried Belinda,
For there was a pirate, climbing in the window.*



*Pistol in his left hand, pistol in his right,
And he held in his teeth a cutlass bright,
His beard was black, one leg was wood;
It was clear that the pirate meant no good.*

NASTY : BAD

GROWLED :

THUNDERING

VOICE

WINDA :

WINDOW

CUTLASS :

SWORD

*Belinda paled, and she cried,
Help! Help!*

*But Mustard fled with a
terrified yelp,*

*Ink trickled down to the
bottom of the household,*

*And little mouse Blink
strategically mouse holed.*

Help...!!

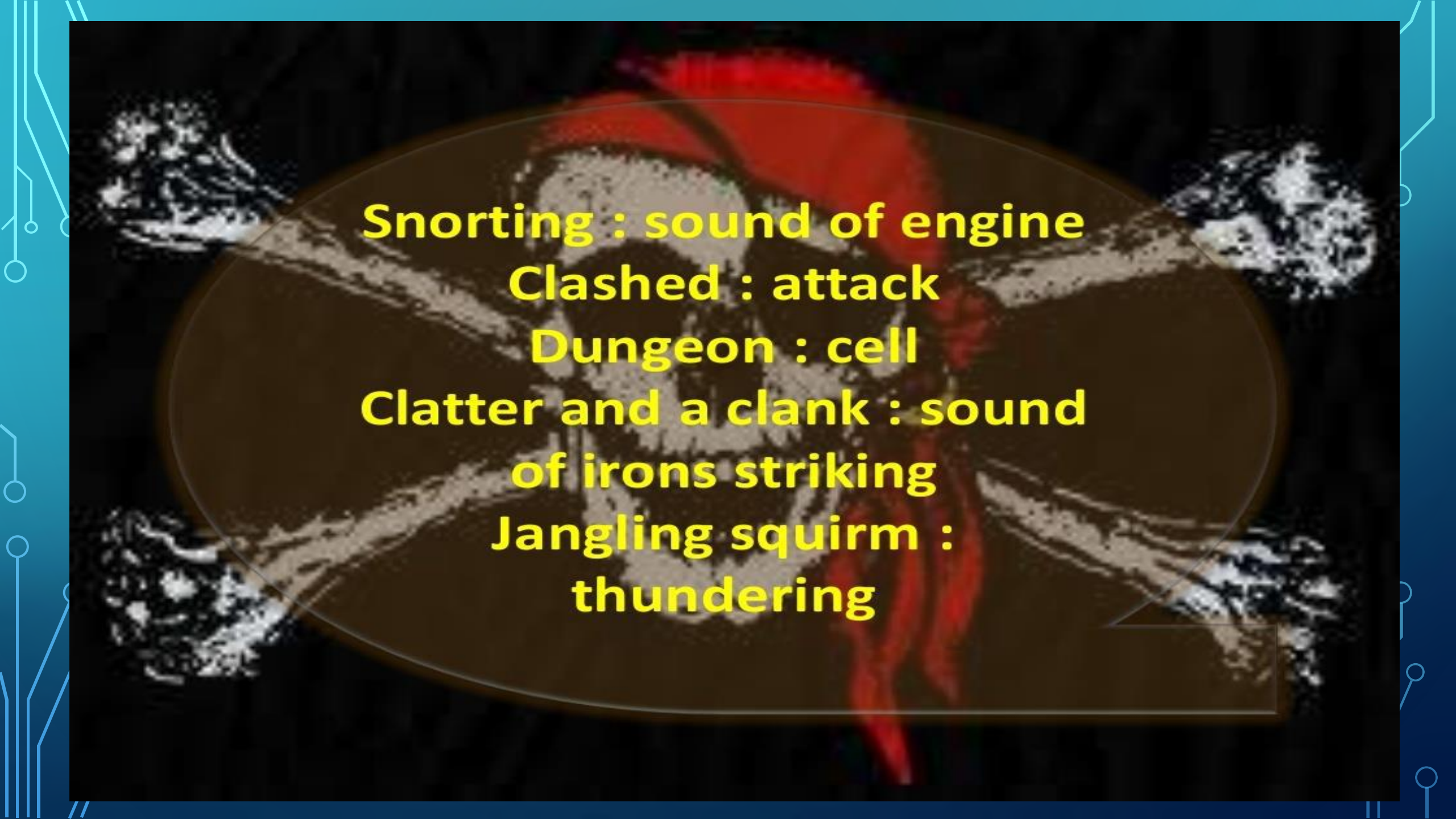




Pale : fear
Fled : ran away
Terrified yelp : feared bark
Trickled down : went down
Strategically : cleverly



**But up jumped Custard, snorting like an engine,
Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon,
With a clatter and a clank and a jangling squirm
He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm.**



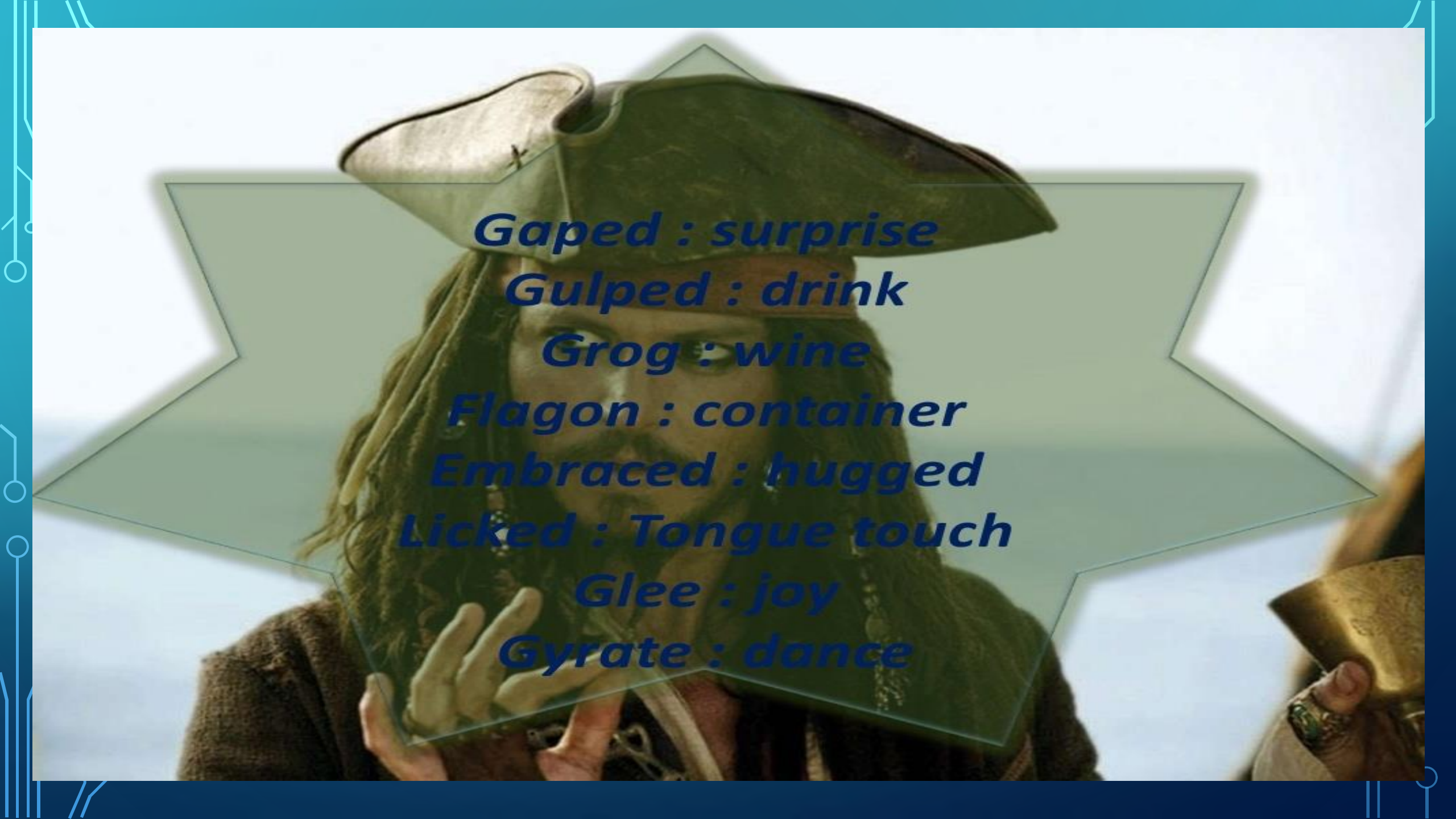
Snorting : sound of engine
Clashed : attack
Dungeon : cell
**Clatter and a clank : sound
of irons striking**
**Jangling squirm :
thundering**

*The pirate gaped at Belinda's
dragon,
And gulped some grog from his
pocket flagon,
He fired two bullets but they didn't
hit,
And Custard gobbled him, every bit.*



*Belinda embraced him, Mustard
licked him,
No one mourned for his pirate
victim
Ink and Blink in glee did gyrate
Around the dragon that ate the
pyrate.*





Gaped : surprise

Gulped : drink

Grog : wine

Flagon : container

Embraced : hugged

Licked : Tongue touch

Glee : joy

Gyrate : dance



**But presently up spoke little dog
Mustard,
I'd 'have been twice as brace if I hadn't
been flustered.**

**And up spoke Ink and up spoke Blink,
We'd have been three times as brave,
we think,**

**And Custard said, I quite agree.
That everybody is braver than me.**

Flustered

: got

nervous

*Belinda still lives in her little white
house,
With her little black kitten and her
little gray mouse,
And her little yellow dog and her little
red wagon,
And her realio, trulio, little pet dragon.*



*Belinda is as brave as a barrel full of
bears,
And Ink and Blink chase lions down
the stairs,
Mustard is as brave as a tiger in a
rage,
But Custard keeps crying for a nice
safe cage.*



Thank you