

Fog
Carl Sandburg

***The fog comes
On little cat feet
It sits looking
Over harbor and city
On silent haunches
And then moves on***

Paraphrase:

This poem is about fog that is everywhere and moves from one place to another. The poet compares the fog as it moves to a cat that is moving. The fog sits on a little cat's feet and then it sits and looks as if it has eyes. The time is very early in the morning.

Similarities between the fog and the cat:

- ✓ Both the fog and the cat are mysterious.
- ✓ The fog gives a mysterious image that is not clear. The cat is also mysterious.
- ✓ The cat moves in silence and so does the fog.
- ✓ They are both God's creation; they are natural things.
- ✓ Both the cat and the fog creep slowly and then settle. For that reason, the writer compared the fog to a cat.

Analysis:

The idea of similarity between the cat and the fog might have come to the poet because of a cat he used to own that was sitting on the edge of the window while he was writing the poem.

The fog sits on the haunches – the back of the cat. The haunches that are silent are metonymy for the cats that sit still and do not move.

The cat here seems to be watching over a panoramic view from a high place. We also notice that none of the cat or the fog causes any harm to anybody here.

The whole poem is built on a metaphor. The fog is compared to something that moves, sits and looks. It shows that it is very mysterious. There is a personification in “silent haunches” in which he compares the haunches to someone who keeps silent. It adds to the mysteriousness of the fog. We cannot predict what it will do next.