

 **The Tale Of Custard The Dragon DATE-12-08-25**

**Extract-Based Questions**

1. **Extract:**
*"Belinda lived in a little white house, / With a little black kitten and a little grey 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,"*

**Question:**
Based on this extract, list all the pets that live with Belinda and state the name of the kitten.

1. **Extract:**
*"But the dragon was a coward, and she called him Custard. / 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."*

**Question:**
According to this extract, why was the dragon called Custard, and what were some of his physical characteristics?

1. **Extract:**
*"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."*

**Question:**
Describe the pirate's appearance as he climbed into the "winda" and explain what his appearance indicated.

1. **Extract:**
*"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. / 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."*

**Question:**
How did Custard react to the pirate, and what was the ultimate outcome for the pirate?

1. **Extract:**
*"Ogden Nash wrote over four hundred pieces of comic verse. The best of his work was published in 14 volumes between 1931 and 1972. His work is perhaps best described in this poetic tribute by Anthony Burgess: / ...he brought a new kind of sound to our literary diversions. And didn’t care much about breaking the poetic laws of the Medes and the Persians. He uses lines, sometimes of considerable length that are colloquial and prosy. And at the end presents you with a rhyme... This bringing together of the informal and the formal is what his genius chiefly loves."*

**Question:**
What made Ogden Nash's poetic style unique, according to Anthony Burgess's tribute?