

FOG by Carl Sandburg

“Fog,” Carl Sandburg describes fog as if it were a quiet cat. It arrives silently, settles over the harbour and city, watches its surroundings, and then disappears. The poem is very short, but its vivid comparison helps readers imagine how fog moves and behaves.

The main comparison is between fog and a cat. Both arrive quietly and without warning. A cat may sit still, watching everything around it, before slipping away. In the same way, fog gently covers the landscape, seems to pause over the city, and then drifts off. The words “little cat feet” suggest its soft, silent movement, while “silent haunches” make the fog seem to sit like a resting cat. This is an example of personification: the poet gives fog the actions and qualities of an animal.

Fog is also presented as a part of nature. Sandburg does not describe it as frightening or harmful. Instead, he shows it as a natural presence that changes the appearance of the harbour and city for a short time. Its quiet arrival and departure create a peaceful, mysterious mood.

The fog may also suggest problems, sadness, or suffering. Like fog, difficulties can arrive quietly and make life seem unclear. They may surround us for a while, hiding the way forward, but they can eventually pass. This is one possible interpretation rather than the poem’s only meaning.

Through simple language and a striking image, Sandburg makes an ordinary natural event memorable. The poem shows that fog can be understood not only as weather, but also as a symbol of silence, mystery, and temporary uncertainty.