
Poem - 6
Aunt Jennifer's Tigers

By ADRIENNE RICH

SUMMARY -

The poet is a feminist and she addresses the difficulties of a married woman. She spends good amount of time in embroidering panel of tigers prancing across the screen. The tigers are fearless creatures pacing elegantly and majestically. They symbolize the spirit of freedom. Aunt is a victim of male chauvinism (male domination).

Aunt Jennifer is so oppressed and terrified that she finds it hard to pull the needle. The "weight of Uncle's wedding band" expresses how victimized and oppressed she is. It implies that aunt Jennifer has to work hard to meet his expectation.

She spends her life in fear but she embroiders on the panel the fearless tigers to express her secret longing for a life of freedom and confidence. Even her death does not end the problem and torture which a married woman experiences.

