

The Cliff Guardian

The cliff guardian stands,
Proud, calm and tall.
Steadfast, she shields,
Peering down on the squall.

.....

Guiding seafarers,
Through treacherous seas.
She tempers the turmoil,
All fears appease.

.....

Waves crashing - furious,
Murky, cold and brash.
The ocean's emotions,
Expressed with a splash.

.....

Her light is a beacon,
Shepherding the brave.
Protecting her seafolk,
From each crashing wave.

.....

Gulls, terns and cormorants,
Circle the tower.
Catch flight on sea zephyrs,
Admiring her power.

.....

Vessels aplenty,
Rejoice in her presence.
A glimpse of her glow,
Home sweet home in an essence.

.....

The cliff guardian stands,
Proud, calm and tall.
Steadfast, she shields,
Keeping watch for us all.

Questions

1. What are the **Gulls, terns and cormorants** mentioned in the fifth verse? Tick one
- ☐ animals
 - ☐ birds
 - ☐ plants
 - ☐ boats

2. Look at this verse. Underline **one** word that means 'dark and cloudy'.

*Waves crashing - furious,
Murky, cold and brash.
The ocean's emotions,
Expressed with a splash.*

3. Find and copy one word which means 'soothe'.

4. Fill in the missing words.

Catch flight on sea _____,
_____ her power.

5. What does the fourth verse tell us about how the cliff guardian protects?

6. Look at this extract. What is the poet telling us about the cliff guardian and her surroundings?

**Guiding seafarers,
Through treacherous seas.**

7. Why do you think the poet chose to use rhyming words?

8. Who is the cliff guardian? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Answers

1. What are the **Gulls, terns and cormorants** mentioned in the fifth verse? Tick one

- ☐ animals
☒ **birds**
☐ plants
☐ boats

2. Look at this verse. Underline **one** word that means 'dark and cloudy'.

*Waves crashing - furious,
Murky, cold and brash.
 The ocean's emotions,
 Expressed with a splash.*

3. Find and copy one word which means 'soothe'.

appease

4. Fill in the missing words.

Catch flight on sea **zephyrs**,
Admiring her power.

5. What does the fourth verse tell us about how the cliff guardian protects?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The fourth verse tells us that the cliff guardian has a light and that it guides brave people out at sea.

6. Look at this extract. What is the poet telling us about the cliff guardian and her surroundings?

**Guiding seafarers,
 Through treacherous seas.**

Pupils' own responses, such as: In this extract the poet is telling us that the cliff guardian shows sailors and people on boats a safe path through the sea by saying 'guiding seafarers'. It also tells us that the sea is very dangerous by using the word 'treacherous'.

7. Why do you think the poet chose to use rhyming words?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the poet chose to use rhyming words in the poem because it gives a gentle rhythm that lilts and flows like the waves of the sea.

8. Who is the cliff guardian? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupils' own response, such as: I think that the cliff guardian is a lighthouse. I think this because the poet tells us that she is standing proud on a cliff. They also tell us that she has a light 'her light is a beacon' which guides people travelling by boat through the dangerous ocean.

Questions

1. Which of these is not a seabird? Tick one.

- ☐ gulls
- ☐ terns
- ☐ cormorants
- ☐ zephyrs

2. Draw **four** lines and match each rhyming couplet.

Through treacherous seas. ●

Proud, calm and tall. ●

Murky, cold and brash. ●

Circle the tower. ●

● Peering down on the squall.

● All tears appease.

● Admiring her power.

● Expressed with a splash.

3. Find and copy one word which means 'sailors'.

4. Whereabouts do you think this poem is set?

5. Fill in the missing words.

_____ aplenty,
_____ in her presence.

6. The poet never tells us exactly who the cliff guardian is. Who or what do you think the cliff guardian is? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

7. Compare the first verse with the final verse.

8. Look at this extract. What is the poet telling us about the cliff guardian's role?

**Her light is a beacon,
Shepherding the brave.**

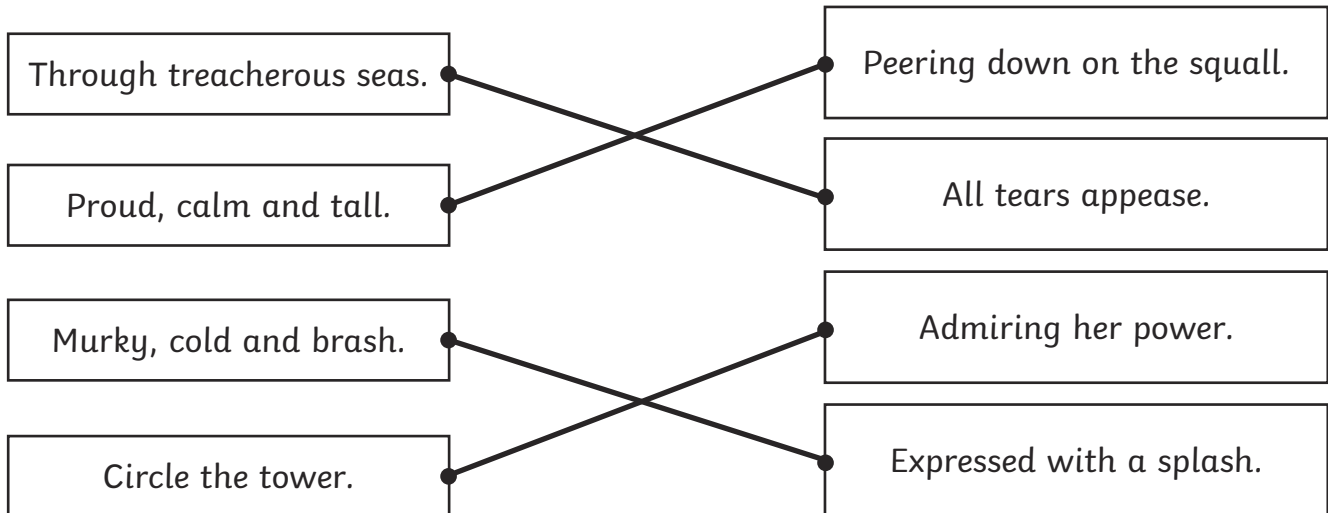
9. Discuss the impression the poet gives you of the cliff guardian.

Answers

1. Which of these is not a seabird? Tick one.

- ☐ gulls
- ☐ terns
- ☐ cormorants
- ☒ **zephyrs**

2. Draw **four** lines and match each rhyming couplet.



3. Find and copy one word which means 'sailors'.

Accept: seafarers; seafolk

4. Whereabouts do you think this poem is set?

I think the poem is set by the ocean.

5. Fill in the missing words.

Vessels aplenty,
Rejoice in her presence.

6. The poet never tells us exactly who the cliff guardian is. Who or what do you think the cliff guardian is? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the cliff guardian is a lighthouse. I think this because the poet tells us that she is standing tall on a cliff protecting boats and sailors. They also tell us that she has a light which acts as a beacon to guide them.

7. Compare the first verse with the final verse.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The first verse and the final verse are very similar. I think the poet has done this on purpose as a way to give the poem a defined conclusion. The only difference between them is the final line, in the first verse the poet introduces the dangers that she is protecting from and in the final verse the poet reminds the reader that she is always keeping watch over them.

8. Look at this extract. What is the poet telling us about the cliff guardian's role?

**Her light is a beacon,
Shepherding the brave.**

Pupils' own responses, such as: The poet is telling us that the cliff guardian's light is how she guides the sailors and people on boats to follow a clear and safe path.

9. Discuss the impression the poet gives you of the cliff guardian.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The poet gives me the impression that the cliff guardian is a strong, everpresent protector. She is strong and guides boats and sailors away from the dangers of the sea.

Questions

1. Where is the poem set? Tick one.

- ☐ on a boat
☐ by a river
☐ by the sea
☐ on a waterfall

2. Look at this stanza. Underline **one** word which means the same as 'breeze'.

Gulls, terns and cormorants,
Circle the tower.
Catch flight on sea zephyrs,
Admiring her power.

3. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'guiding'.

4. Fill in the missing words.

_____ seafarers,
 Through _____ seas.

5. How does the poet tell us the sea expresses its feelings?

6. Look at this verse. What is the poet telling us about the cliff guardian and her role?

Vessels aplenty,
Rejoice in her presence.
A glimpse of her glow,
Home sweet home in an essence.

7. Summarise the poetic devices the author of the poem has used to describe the cliff guardian. Use examples from the poem to support your answer.

8. How do you think this poem would be different if it did not use rhyming couplets?

9. Who or what do you think the cliff guardian is? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

10. Think about the poem as a whole.

Using evidence from the text, give **three** examples of how the author presents the cliff guardian as a 'protective force'.

1. Where is the poem set? Tick one.

- ☐ on a boat
- ☐ by a river
- ☒ **by the sea**
- ☐ on a waterfall

2. Look at this stanza. Underline **one** word which means the same as 'breeze'.

*Gulls, terns and cormorants,
Circle the tower.
Catch flight on sea zephyrs,
Admiring her power.*

3. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'guiding'.

shepherding

4. Fill in the missing words.

Guiding seafarers,
Through **treacherous** seas.

5. How does the poet tell us the sea expresses its feelings?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The poet tells us that the sea expresses its emotions with splashes and furious waves.

6. Look at this verse. What is the poet telling us about the cliff guardian and her role?

**Vessels aplenty,
Rejoice in her presence.
A glimpse of her glow,
Home sweet home in an essence.**

Pupils' own responses, such as: The poet is telling us that the role of the cliff guardian is to protect the vessels. It also tells us that when seafarers see her light they feel the warmth of arriving home.

7. Summarise the poetic devices the author of the poem has used to describe the cliff guardian. Use examples from the poem to support your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The author uses a range of poetic devices throughout the poem. They have used a rhyming couplet structure with the second and fourth lines of each stanza rhyming. They have used lots of personification both for the cliff guardian herself, as well as other aspects of the poem such as the sea and the waves: 'the ocean's emotions' and 'waves crashing - furious' demonstrate this.

8. How do you think this poem would be different if it did not use rhyming couplets?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think this poem would be very different without the rhyming structure. It would not have the same rhythm and I think that would be a negative thing. The rhyming and short lines and stanzas gives the poem a gentle lilting rhythm which reminds me of the repetitive motion of the sea.

9. Who or what do you think the cliff guardian is? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I believe the cliff guardian is a lighthouse. She stands tall on a cliff and protects sailors and seafolk using her light: 'Her light is a beacon.' Another clue to suggest this is that the poem talks about her 'Guiding seafarers, through treacherous seas.'

10. Think about the poem as a whole.

Using evidence from the text, give **three** examples of how the author presents the cliff guardian as a 'protective force'.

Pupils' own responses, such as:

- 1. In the first verse the poet presents the cliff guardian, describing her as standing proud and tall. They also suggest she is steadfast which means strong and determined.**
- 2. Throughout the poem the poet tells us that the cliff guardian protects, guides and provides reassurance: 'Her light is a beacon, shepherding the brave.'**
- 3. In the fourth and sixth verse the poet describes the cliff guardian's light and how it provides a guiding glow for vessels out on the dangerous sea. They tell us how sailors are so relieved at the sight of her: 'Vessels aplenty, rejoice in her presence, a glimpse of her glow, home sweet home in an essence.'**