



Year 8 Poetry 6: The Lighthouse Keeper's Watch

Read the following poem and answer the questions below:

The Lighthouse Keeper's Watch

Upon the cliff, where winds are fierce,
A lighthouse stands, its beam so clear.
It cuts the dark, a guiding light,
For ships that sail through stormy night.

The keeper waits, through cold and rain,
His duty calls, despite the strain.
With every flash, he knows the cost,
For lives could be forever lost.

The sea roars loud, a monstrous tide,
Yet in the tower, he must abide.
He tends the flame, so strong, so bright,
Ensuring safety through the night.

But in the quiet, when storms subside,
And calm returns to the raging tide,
The keeper sits, in thought profound,
Of all the ships that never drowned.

His watchful eyes, they never rest,
For he knows his role, a sacred quest.
To guide the lost, to lead them home,
To light the path when they must roam.



Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the primary setting of the poem?

- A) A bustling city street
- B) A serene meadow
- C) A cliffside lighthouse
- D) A dense forest

2. What does the lighthouse symbolize in the poem?

- A) Adventure
- B) Safety and guidance
- C) Loneliness
- D) Destruction

3. Which language technique is used in "It cuts the dark, a guiding light"?

- A) Simile
- B) Alliteration
- C) Personification
- D) Metaphor

4. What mood is created by the line "The sea roars loud, a monstrous tide"?

- A) Calm
- B) Fearful
- C) Joyful
- D) Indifferent



5. What does the poet imply by "His duty calls, despite the strain"?
- A) The keeper ignores his duty
 - B) The keeper is committed to his role
 - C) The keeper is eager for his work
 - D) The keeper is unaware of his duty
6. How does the poet describe the relationship between the keeper and the sea?
- A) The keeper is terrified of the sea
 - B) The keeper is in awe of the sea
 - C) The keeper battles the sea's dangers
 - D) The keeper is indifferent to the sea
7. Which language technique is evident in "The keeper waits, through cold and rain"?
- A) Hyperbole
 - B) Imagery
 - C) Onomatopoeia
 - D) Simile
8. What does the poet mean by "His watchful eyes, they never rest"?
- A) The keeper is lazy
 - B) The keeper sleeps often
 - C) The keeper is always vigilant
 - D) The keeper is unaware of his surroundings



9. How does the poet use contrast in the poem?

- A) By contrasting the lighthouse's light with the dark sea
- B) By contrasting the keeper's role with the sailors' fear
- C) By contrasting the calm with the storm
- D) All of the above

10. Which of the following is a theme of the poem?

- A) The excitement of the unknown
- B) The loneliness of duty
- C) The power of the sea
- D) The importance of perseverance



Short Answer Questions

1. How does the poet use personification in the poem?

2. What is the effect of the metaphor "It cuts the dark"?

3. Identify the rhyme scheme of the first stanza.

4. How does the poet create a sense of duty in the poem?



5. Discuss the significance of the lighthouse keeper's role in the poem.

6. What does the phrase "a monstrous tide" suggest about the sea?

7. How does the poet contrast the storm with the calm?

8. What is the mood conveyed in the fourth stanza, and how is it achieved?



9. How does the poet convey the theme of vigilance in the poem?

10. What is the overall message of the poem regarding the lighthouse keeper's work?



Answer Key

Multiple Choice Answers:

1. C) A cliffside lighthouse
2. B) Safety and guidance
3. D) Metaphor
4. B) Fearful
5. B) The keeper is committed to his role
6. C) The keeper battles the sea's dangers
7. B) Imagery
8. C) The keeper is always vigilant
9. D) All of the above
10. D) The importance of perseverance

Short Answer Key:

1. The poet personifies the lighthouse by giving it the action of "cutting the dark" with its light, and the sea by describing it as "roaring" and "monstrous," adding drama and intensity to the scene.
2. The metaphor "It cuts the dark" suggests that the lighthouse's beam pierces through the darkness, providing guidance and hope in the midst of danger, emphasizing its importance.
3. The rhyme scheme of the first stanza is AABB.
4. The poet creates a sense of duty by describing the keeper's unwavering commitment to his role, despite the strain and the dangers of the sea, showing his dedication.
5. The lighthouse keeper's role is significant as he represents safety and guidance for sailors, his vigilance ensuring that they are led safely through the stormy night.
6. The phrase "a monstrous tide" suggests that the sea is powerful, dangerous, and unpredictable, presenting a formidable challenge to the keeper and the sailors.
7. The poet contrasts the storm with the calm by describing the fierce, roaring sea during the storm and the quiet, reflective mood that follows when the storm subsides, highlighting the keeper's ongoing vigilance.
8. The mood conveyed in the fourth stanza is reflective, achieved through the calm after the storm and the keeper's thoughts about the lives he has helped save, emphasizing the importance of his work.
9. The poet conveys the theme of vigilance through the description of the keeper's constant watch, his "watchful eyes" that "never rest," and his unwavering attention to his duty.
10. The overall message of the poem is that the lighthouse keeper's work is crucial and demanding, requiring perseverance and vigilance to ensure the safety of others, even in the face of great challenges.



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