

## Sea-Fever

I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,  
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by,  
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shaking,  
And a grey mist on the sea's face and a grey dawn breaking.

I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide  
Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;  
And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying,  
And the flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea-gulls crying.

I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy life,  
To the gull's way and the whale's way where the wind's like a whetted knife;  
And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow-rover,  
And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's over.

*by John Masefield*

## Questions relating to Sea-Fever

1. Circle the three examples taken from the poem that show an apostrophe used for omission:

wheel's kick

whale's way

white sail's shaking

sea's face

wind's like a whetted knife

gull's way

long trick's over

wind's song

(2 marks)

2. Circle the person who you think is the voice of the poem:

a young sailor

an old fisherman

a youth

an ex-sailor

a traveller

(1 mark)

3. What does spume mean?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

4. What is the feature called that the poet uses in 'lonely sea'?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1mark)

5. Identify a simile used in the poem.

\_\_\_\_\_

(1 mark)

6. How does the poet use repetition for effect?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (2marks)

**7. Find four adjectives that the poet uses as imagery.**

\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

**8. What does the poet mean by 'when the long trick's over'?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

**9. Why do you think the poet describes the sea as lonely?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

**10. Do you enjoy reading the poem? Why/why not? Give reasons.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)