

Practice text: The Man Whose Mother Was a Pirate

Cracking the questions

Question	Answer	CD/Mark	Useful strategies
1. List all the people who are on the beach at the beginning of this extract.	The little man, a rosy sea captain, a woman.	2b 2 marks	<i>Question focus: retrieve key details from fiction.</i> Strategies: - Carefully read the question, marking key words. - Carefully read the beginning of the extract to establish the context. Award 1 mark for one or two people and 2 marks for all three.
2. How do you know that the little man hadn't ever seen the sea before this?	Accept answers such as the following: - He hadn't dreamed of the BIGNESS of it. - He hadn't thought it would roll like kettledrums.	2d 1 mark	<i>Question focus: make inferences from the text.</i> Strategies: - Carefully read the question, marking key words. - Skim the text to gain an overall feeling for the little man's response. - Scan the text for ideas/quotations to use in the answer.
3. Reread paragraph 2. Tick the sentence that summarises this paragraph best: ☐ The little man thought the sea was very loud and very big. ☐ The little man fell in love with the sea and knew it would never leave him. ☐ The little man was surprised that the sea was full of people, animals and birds.	The little man fell in love with the sea and knew it would never leave him.	2c 2 marks	<i>Question focus: summarise the main idea.</i> Strategies: - Carefully read the question, marking key words. - Reread the long paragraph, considering the question. - Select the best option.
4. Why do you think the author used pairs of words like: drift and dream, weave and wave, fume and foam?	- The author wants the reader to understand how amazed the little man is by the sea. - The writing is like poetry because it's the best way to show the little man's feelings. - Rhythm recreates the ebb and flow/sound of the sea. - The pairs of words begin with the same letter.	2g 1 mark	<i>Question focus: identify how meaning is enhanced by the choice of words and phrases.</i> Strategies: - Carefully read the question, marking key words. - Scan the text for the pairs of words the author uses. - Carefully reread the paragraph containing the words while thinking about the question. - Consider the impact of this kind of writing.

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5. The sea did not really "stroke the sand with soft little paws" (paragraph 2) so why did the writer use those words?	• She's trying to show how gentle and playful the sea is at the little man's feet. • She's continuing to use alliteration/write with lots of words beginning with the same sound. • She's using hissing sounds to imitate the sound of the sea.	2f 1 mark	<i>Question focus: explain how language contributes to the meaning.</i> Strategies: • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Scan the text for the sentence to understand the context. • Think of the image made in the reader's head by that sentence.
6. How does the little man's reaction to seeing the sea help you to understand why he agreed to be a cabin boy so quickly?	Accept an answer that shows awareness that the man has fallen in love with the sea. For example: • He doesn't want to go home again. • He wants to stay near the sea. • He likes the sound and feel of the sea.	2c 1 mark	<i>Question focus: explain how narrative content is related.</i> Strategies: • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Skim the text, thinking about how the little man feels. • Look for words or ideas that help you to know the answer to the question.
7. "here are two likely people". What does the word "likely" mean in this sentence? Tick one. ☐ They look like they will agree to what he wants them to do. ☐ The sea captain likes the look of them. ☐ They are strangers. ☐ They have nothing else to do but stand on the sand and look at the sea.	They look like they will agree to what he wants them to do.	2a 1 mark	<i>Question focus: explain the meaning of words in context.</i> Strategies: • Think about which part of the text you need reread to look for answers. • Carefully reread that part of the text. • Scan the rest of the text to check that your answer seems right. • Carefully read the choices again
8. Do you think the sea captain is going to be a kind man? ☐ Yes ☐ No Use ideas from the text in your answer.	Yes • Because he's described as "rosy". No • Because he roars when the little man says "Thank you!" (lines 11–12).	2e 1 mark	<i>Question focus: predict what might happen from details stated and implied.</i> Strategies: • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Consider where in the text to find the answer. • Scan that part of the text, looking for information to include in the answer. There is no mark for the first part of the answer.
9. Why do you think the captain wants the little man to say "Aye, aye sir!" (line 13) instead of "Thank you!" (line 11)?	'Aye, aye, sir' is what sailors say to the ship's captain.	2g 1 mark	<i>Question focus: identify how meaning is enhanced by the choice of words.</i> Strategies: • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Consider why the author might have made that decision.