

The Spirit of Place

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A poem for four voices

Here is just the beginning of a **horror story**. Where will it end?

- 1 1: There was a **sea**
2: a **blue sea**
3: a **secret blue sea**
4: and in this **sea**
1: there was an **island**
2: a **spiky island**
3: a **spiky green island**
4: and in this **island**
1: there was a **valley**
2: a **deep valley**
3: a **hot deep valley**
4: and in this **valley**
- 13 1: there was a **tree**
2: a **vast tree**
3: a **vast ancient tree**
4: and in the **roots** of this **tree**
1: there was an **egg**
2: a **historic egg**
3: a **prehistoric egg**
4: and in this **egg**
1: there was a **creature**
2: a **live creature**
3: a **creature so wild**
4: so full of **energy**
All: *the old tree trembled.*
- 26 1: And in a **hurricane**
2: a **tearing hurricane**
3: a **fierce tearing hurricane**
4: that **tree cracked**
All: *cracked to the roots.*
1: And out of those **roots**
2: those **shattered roots**
3: **roots laid bare** in the **howl**
4: climbed the **creature**
1: the **wild creature**
2: so full of **energy**
3: so full of **destruction**
4: it **shrieked** for **escape.**
- 39 1: There was a **sea**
2: a **blue sea**
3: a **boiling blue sea**
4: and in this **sea**
1: there was an **island**
2: a **spiky island**
3: an **island in turmoil**
4: it was ready to **plunge**
1: **plunge** into the **sea**
2: the **boiling sea**
3: and **swim, swim, swim**
All: *towards us all.*

1. Do you think the island sounded welcoming at the beginning of the poem?

Yes No

Explain your answer using ideas from the poem.

2d

2 marks

2. What are the first words in the poem that warn us we should fear the creature?

2a

1 mark

3. Write **three** powerful words the poet uses in verse 3 (beginning "*And in a hurricane*") to show the strength of the wind.

2g

3 marks

4. What is the impact of the poet's use of four voices? Explain your answer using ideas from the poem.

2f

2 marks

5. Why do you think the poet decided to write about a storm at the point in the story when the creature is born?

2f

1 mark

6. The last verse begins by nearly repeating the lines at the beginning of the first verse.

Why do you think the poet changes "*secret*" (verse 1) to "*boiling*" (verse 4)?

Explain why the poet used **both** of the words.

2h

2 marks

7. There are four verses in this poem. Complete this table showing the main idea of each verse.

Verse	Main idea
1	Establish the setting and introducing the egg
2	
3	
4	

2c

3 marks

8. "*an island in turmoil*" (verse 4) What does the word "*turmoil*" mean in this poem?

Tick the best option.

order chaos calm escape

2a

1 mark

9. What is the poet's feeling about the creature? Use words from the poem in your answer.

2d

2 marks

Question	Answer
<p>1. Do you think the island sounded welcoming at the beginning of the poem?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Explain your answer using ideas from the poem.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We're told that the island was in a blue sea. The fact that the tree is vast and ancient helps to reassure us that it's safe. <p>No.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first we hear about the island is that it's "spiky green" (verse 1) and that it's in a "secret blue sea" (verse 1). "Secret" doesn't sound welcoming and neither does "spiky".
<p>2. What are the first words in the poem that warn us we should fear the creature?</p>	<p>"so full of destruction" (verse 3). Also except "wild" (verse 2).</p>
<p>3. Write three powerful words the poet uses in verse 3 (beginning "And in a hurricane") to show the strength of the wind.</p>	<p>Any three of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "hurricane" "tearing" "fierce" "cracked" "shattered" "howl"
<p>4. What is the impact of the poet's use of four voices? Explain your answer using ideas from the poem.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It builds tension by repeating and developing on simple ideas. One person can make a simple statement, e.g. "there was a sea" (line 39), and others add a word to develop the setting and the tension, e.g. "a blue sea/a boiling blue sea" (lines 36-37).
<p>5. Why do you think the poet decided to write about a storm at the point in the story when the creature is born?</p>	<p>It emphasises the wild and destructive nature of the creature.</p>

Question	Answer
<p>6. The last verse begins by nearly repeating the lines at the beginning of the first verse. Why do you think the poet changes "secret" (verse 1) to "boiling" (verse 4)? Explain why the poet used both of the words.</p>	<p>"Secret" is a calm word and was appropriate when the creature was still inside the egg. However, after it's escaped, the sea is "boiling" to reflect the danger.</p>
<p>7. There are four verses in this poem. Complete the table showing the main idea of each verse. (See table, right.)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the setting and introducing the egg Introduce the creature The birth of the creature The creature escapes from the island
<p>8. "an island in turmoil" (line 41) What does the undefined word mean in this poem? Tick the best option.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> order <input type="checkbox"/> chaos <input type="checkbox"/> calm <input type="checkbox"/> escape</p>	<p>chaos</p>
<p>9. What is the poet's feeling about the creature? Use words from the poem in your answer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The poet thinks that the creature is dangerous. The poem is a warning that it is swimming "towards us all" (verse 4). The whole poem is a warning about the "energy/so full of destruction" (verse 3) of the creature that had plunged into the sea and is now threatening us all.