

'Sea Fever'

By John Masefield

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 they 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 seagulls 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.

Student Tasks

Read the following background information about the poet (John Masefield) and the poem 'Sea Fever' This will prepare you for the annotation exercise that you will do with a partner

Annotation means we will:

Mark and write on the text to bring attention to words, phrases, and structure that may have some importance to the overall mood or theme of a poem.

Background Information.

'Sea Fever' is one of John Masefield's best known poems. John Masefield was an Englishman who went to sea when he was 15 years old after being very unhappy at boarding school. John Masefield drew on his own experiences as a seaman to create the vivid imagery of the poem. This poem gives the reader a strong sense of wanderlust and love of the seafaring life.

The poem uses the language features of personification, alliteration, regular rhyme and the sing-song rhythm helps bring to life the experience of a sailor who loves the sea.

The vivid imagery in 'Sea Fever' helps establish the poem's setting, tone, and point of view. The poems gives the reader a multi-sensory depiction of the sea, the imagery shows the speaker's close sense of familiarity with and fondness for the sea. His descriptions of life on the ocean establish the passionate, yearning tone of the poem.

Annotating the Poem Sea Fever

Use the internet to find the meaning of the nautical terms in the poem, '**wheel's kick**', '**a star to steer her by**'

Find a diagram that show the particular constellations that sailors in the South Pacific used to navigate by.

See if you can research some amazing sailors, Captain Cook, and Te Rauparaha

Use google to help you to find images to put into a slide show.

Can you find about their journeys, you may find this using images, or a youtube clip. To show this.

Poetry Work.

Read the poem, and write down or tell someone what you think of the poem.

Write or get someone to write for you any questions that pop into your head]when you are reading the poem.

Identify any words that you do not understand and look them up. Write the definitions on the poem.

Are there any examples of rhyme that you can identify in the poem

There are examples of personification and alliteration in the poem, see if you can identify them. You may need someone to help you do this.

Find another 2 examples of a sea poem.

Can you present a visual image of one of the lines of poem, for example ‘ a grey mist and a grey dawn breaking’ what images could you find to show this description.