

Class 8

Poem - The Inchcape Rock

A- Answer the following questions.

1- How does the poet describe the sea at the start of the poem?

Ans- The poet describes the sea as a very calm and quiet at the start of the poem.

2- Who had placed the Inchcape bell and why?

Ans- Abbot of Aberbrothok had placed the bell on the Inchcape rock to prevent ships from getting shipwrecked during storms.

3- Why is the rock called perilous?

Ans- The rock is called perilous meaning dangerous, because the rock caused shipwrecks and claimed many lives.

4- Who was Ralph the Rover?

Ans- Ralph the Rover was a pirate whose aim was to rob off the belongings of people who perished in the wreck.

5- What did he do to the Inchcape bell?

Ans- Ralph cut off the bell from the Inchcape rock.

6- How did the other members of the crew react to the bad weather?

Ans- One of the crew member said that the breakers or waves could not be heard, so they must be nearing the shore. He added that if the Inchcape bell could be heard then they would have known their location.

B- Answer the following question.

1-No stir in the air, no stir in the sea,  
The ship was still as she could be,  
Her sails from heaven received no motion,  
Her keel was steady in the ocean.

a- Identify the literary device used in the first line.

Ans- The literary device used in the first line is repetition and antithesis.

b - Explain the line, Her sails from heaven received no motion.

Ans-The line her sails from heaven received no motion means that there was no wind blowing that could move the sails.

c- Whose keel was steady and why?

Ans-Louis The ship's keel was steady because there was no movement in the sea.

2- When the Rock was hid by the surgery swell,  
The Mariners heard the warning bell,  
And then they knew the perilous rock,  
And blest the Abbot of Aberbrothok

a- When was the rock hid by the surgery swell?

Ans- When there was high tide and huge waves the rock could not be seen by the sailors.

b- What did the Mariners do when they heard the warning bell?

Ans- When the sailors heard the bell, they were cautious of the inchcape rock and thus avoided

accidents.

c- Whom did they bless and why?

And They blessed Abbot of Aberbrothok for tying the bell.

3- Sir Ralph the Rover said away,  
He scour'd the seas for many a day,  
And now grown rich with plundered store,  
He steers his course for Scotland's shore.

a- Where did Ralph the Rover sail away?

Ans- Ralph the Rover sailed away into the seas.

b- How did he grow rich?

And Ralph was a pirate who looted and plundered ships and thus he grew rich.

c- Why did he return to Scotland's shore?

Ans- Ralph is returning home to Scotland to spend his acquired wealth.

C- Think, discuss and then answer

1- What kind of man is Ralph the rover? Support your answer with the examples from the poem.

Ans - Ralph the Rover was a wicked and jealous person. He could not accept the popularity of the good Abbot. He removed the bell on the Inchcape rock because he wanted to spoil the Abbot reputation. He also wanted to get rid of the bell so that the ships lose control in bad weather and then he could rob the belongings of the people on the ship.

2- The Inchcape Rock is based on a legend. Identify the legend.

Ans - The poem is based on the Inchcape Rock legend. It is a reef situated in the North Sea, close to the coastal region of Angus of Scotland. This rock is known for causing shipwrecks. The legend says that the Abbot of Aberbrothok placed a bell on the Inchcape to warn sailors of the perilous reef and a Dutch pirate removed the bell. The pirate died at the same reef a year after removing the bell.