

# **English**

### Poetry

#### We Lost our Teacher to the Sea by David Harmer

We've been at the seaside all day collecting shells, drawing the view doing science in the rock pools.

Our teacher went to find the sea's edge and stayed there, he's sitting on a rock he won't come back.

His glasses are frosted over with salt his beard has knotted into seaweed his black suit is covered in limpets.

He's staring into the wild water singing to the waves sharing a joke with the herring gulls. We sent out the coastguard the lifeboat and the orange helicopter he told them to go away.

We're getting on the bus with our sticks of rock our presents for Mum and our jotters and pencils.

He's still out there as we leave arms outstretched to the pale blue sky the tide racing towards him.

His slippery fishtail flaps with a flick and a shimmer he's gone back to the sea forever.

- 1. What do you think this poem is about?
- 2. How many adjectives can you spot in this poem?
- 3. How would you feel if your teacher became a merman whilst on a school trip? Why?

## Reading

### The Fisherman



The fisherman goes out at dawn When every one's abed, And from the bottom of the sea Draws up his daily bread.

His life is strange; half on the shore And half upon the sea --Not quite a fish, and yet not quite The same as you and me.

The fisherman has curious eyes; They make you feel so queer, As if they had seen many things Of wonder and of fear.

They're like the sea on foggy days, --Not gray, nor yet quite blue; They 're like the wondrous tales he tells Not quite -- yet maybe -- true.

He knows so much of boats and tides, Of winds and clouds and sky! But when I tell of city things, He sniffs and shuts one eye!

1. Circle the phrase which describes the fisherman's catch.

the fisherman goes out at dawn

when every one's abed

and from the bottom of the sea

draws up his daily bread

- 2. Find and copy a phrase from the third stanza that suggests the fisherman has led an exciting life.
- 3. Explain why you think the author has described the fisherman's life as 'strange'.
- 4. Describe the fisherman in your own words