

Sea Fever

by John Masefield



- 1 I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,
- 2 And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by,
- 3 And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shaking,
- 4 And a gray mist on the sea's face, and a gray dawn breaking.

- 5 I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide
- 6 Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;
- 7 And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying,
- 8 And the flung spray and the blown spume, and the seagulls crying.

- 9 I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy life,
- 10 To the gull's way and the whale's way, where the wind's like a whetted knife;
- 11 And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow-rover,
- 12 And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's over.

MONDAY

Choose the definition that matches the bold word in the sentence.

1. Each retreating wave left a trail of **spume** on the wet sand.
 - Ⓐ foamy bubbles
 - Ⓑ saliva
2. Scissors, axes, and other tools can be **whetted** by grinding them against a spinning stone wheel.
 - Ⓐ watered
 - Ⓑ sharpened
3. During the Great Depression, some men became **rovers**, traveling on freight trains in search of work.
 - Ⓐ cowboys
 - Ⓑ wanderers
4. At the end of the ceremony, the sky was filled with **flung** graduation caps.
 - Ⓐ cast off or thrown
 - Ⓑ crushed
5. He told such a wild **yarn** that none of us could believe it was true.
 - Ⓐ a story
 - Ⓑ sweater
6. John Muir led a **vagrant** life, traveling throughout the wilderness areas of the United States.
 - Ⓐ unsettled or wandering
 - Ⓑ quiet

TUESDAY

Circle the word that describes the poet's tone. Write words or phrases from the poem to support your answer.

angry

depressed

eager

puzzled

silly

WEDNESDAY

Choose the correct answer.

1. What rhyme scheme does the poet use?

(A) ABBA

(C) ABCABC

(B) ABCC

(D) AABB

2. Which of these is an example of a simile?

(A) The wind's like a whetted knife.

(C) The call of the running tide cannot be denied.

(B) Dawn is breaking.

(D) All I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by.

3. What term describes the repeated sounds in the phrase "a *star* to *steer* her by"?

(A) rhyme

(C) harmony

(B) alliteration

(D) onomatopoeia

THURSDAY

Write the number of the line or lines from the poem that match each sentence.

Poem lines:

4

7-8

5-6

11

_____ I want to hear cheerful stories from other sailors.

_____ When I hear the sound of the tide, it makes me want to go sailing again.

_____ I want to see the sunrise.

_____ I want to be at sea when the wind is blowing spray from the waves.

FRIDAY

Why do you think John Masefield used the word "fever" in the title of this poem?
