

The Kraken

Below the thunders of the upper deep,
Far, far beneath in the abysmal sea,
His ancient, dreamless, uninvaded sleep
The Kraken sleepeth: faintest sunlights flee
About his shadowy sides; above him swell
Huge sponges of millennial growth and height;
And far away into the sickly light,
From many a wondrous grot and secret cell
Unnumbered and enormous polypi
Winnow with giant arms the slumbering green.
There hath he lain for ages, and will lie
Battening upon huge sea worms in his sleep,
Until the latter fire shall heat the deep;
Then once by man and angels to be seen,
In roaring he shall rise and on the surface die.

by Alfred Lord Tennyson

Read the poem 'The Kraken'.

Task 1

This seems like a complicated poem at first due to the language used. If we were in school together, we would talk and share our ideas, picking the poem apart. Read this with someone at home, have a good chat about it. Can you work out what is going on? Highlight any words you don't know. Use a dictionary to look them up or discuss them with someone at home.

Task 2

Answer the questions below:

- Where does the Kraken sleep?
- How does he sleep if it is 'uninvaded'?
- Can you find examples of archaic (older) language?

- How can you tell this sea monster has laid below the sea for a long time? Which words are used?
- What happens to the Kraken on the surface of the water?
- Name 5 adjectives used in the poem.
- Which are your favourite descriptions from the poem? Why do you like them?

Task 3

A kraken is a mythical sea monster. They come from Scandinavian/Norse myths. Krakens are rumoured to live off the coast of Norway. Draw what you think this sea monster looks like... use some of the words from the poem. (Don't google images of this creature, I want to see YOUR interpretation of it using the poem only).

Draw it in its setting, deep below the ocean... what would it look like? Label your pictures with some words from the text. Rather than making it a simple diagram, maybe you could incorporate your words into the picture in an exciting, artistic way?

Make this task as simple or as arty as you like. Maybe you could use collage to create your mythical sea monster?

Task 4

Words cost 10p. You can spend 50p. Which words would you buy? Write a sentence to describe the sea monster using your words.

Task 5

If you're anything like me, putting pen to paper after weeks and weeks (a whole year and a month for me actually) is rather difficult. So we need to get that hand working again. Practise your handwriting by copying out several lines of the poem as neatly as you can using a joined style. Try to choose a good pen and ensure you are sitting correctly at a table to do this. Warm up by practising any joins that you don't feel confident with.

Task 6

Find synonyms (words that have similar meanings) for the following and write in the table below:

wondrous	ancient	slumbering	abysmal

Online thesauri are very useful for finding effective synonyms.

Task 7

Look at how the poet uses lots of prepositional phrases in the poem. Try to spot and highlight them all e.g. *beneath in the abysmal sea / on the surface.*

Have a go at writing your own descriptive poem about a sea monster using the synonyms you found and prepositional phrases. Imagine your sea monster lives in an underwater sea cave or lair. There are no rules and don't worry about rhyming. For example:

*In his lair, the dreadful slumbering monster wheezes,
Inside a grimy, murky cave he has hidden for an eternity,
Lapping, splashing, spraying, the waves swell above him...*

Task 8

Practise reading aloud your poem (or you can use the original). Decide which words need volume and emphasis. Perform to a family member and/or record to send into us. Maybe we could then share some on the blog next week?

You may also want to publish (handwrite, illustrate and decorate) your final poem. Maybe you could use your original artwork from Task 3 in some way? Don't forget to edit and proof-read beforehand though!

I can't wait to see your final pieces! As always!

Miss Fray