

Subject

Language arts

Summary

Sea stories, songs and poems have been part of the lives of all people who live near water and make their living from large lakes or seas. The poem, *Deceptive Sea* provides a glimpse into the beauty and the dangers facing those who set sail, whether it's a short journey or a long one.

Overall Expectations

Read and identify poetic devices in a poem.
Understand the sequence of impressions and events in a poem.

Specific Expectations

Write a verse to add to the poem. Engage in discussion about the form and content of poetry.
Share the final stanzas created for the poem

Author

Rosalind Ross

Poetry at sea

BACKGROUND

What do we already know about the story behind the poem? Kim comes from Newfoundland in Canada, a province with a strong tradition of songs and poetry about people and the sea, fishing, storms, love, tragedy and joy. The S. V. Amanzi will face different conditions as Kim and David make their way south from Lake Ontario. The poem gives us a sample of the changes sailors must anticipate as they make decisions about whether or not to set out.

Challenge: Can you identify the poetic devices that appear in *Deceptive Sea*? Can you guess what happens after the last stanza of the poem?

Did you know ...

The poem is an original written especially for this lesson.

Deceptive Sea

*Soft waves slide silently down shingle and sand
Moonlight hovers over the mist
A breeze sighs in the seaside reeds
The deep is far from the land.*

*Red sun at morning, sailor take warning –
Surely the old saying is wrong?
Seabirds glide through the dawn
On rosy wings in the calm.*

*Put out to sea lads, there's fish to be caught
The wind's in our favour for sure
Throw off the lines, set the sails true
We'll be back 'fore the night tide is out.*

*The noon sun is hiding
Behind clouds black as night
Wind moans like a creature enraged
And the sea is a mountain of grey.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Alliteration is the repetition of the same sound several times in one line of writing. Find an example in the first stanza* of the poem and write it in your notebook.
2. The mood of a piece of writing is the feeling that the words produce. Is the mood of the first stanza threatening, fearful, calming, peaceful or happy? Which words made you decide on your choice?
3. How does the first line in the second stanza shift the mood a little?
4. Imagery is the device that lets us imagine, very clearly from the words used, the picture the writer wants us to see. What do you see when you read the last two lines in the second stanza?
5. Who is the person speaking in the third stanza? To whom is that person speaking? Do you feel as confident about the boat going out to sea? Why or why not?
6. How does the mood change in the next stanza of the poem? Use one of the words from the list in question #2 to describe the mood.
7. *Deceptive* describes anything, or anyone, that is not what it appears to be. How is the sea deceptive? What line provided a clue in the second stanza?
8. Now it is your turn. Try writing the next four lines of the poem, keeping in mind what has happened so far. You can try several different versions.

* A stanza of a poem is like a verse in a song or a small paragraph in regular writing. The lines are connected to a main idea.