

Tell Me, Tell Me, Sarah Jane by Charles Causley

Tell me, tell me, Sarah Jane,
Tell me dearest daughter,
Why are you holding in your hand
A thimbleful of water?
Why do you hold it to your eye
And gaze both late and soon
From early morning light until
The rising of the moon?

*Mother, I hear the mermaids cry,
I hear the mermen sing,
And I see the sailing-ships
All made of sticks and string.
And I can see the jumping fish,
The whales that fall and rise
And swim about the waterspout
That swarms up to the skies.*

Tell me, tell me, Sarah Jane,
Tell your darling mother,
Why do you walk beside the tide
As though you loved none other?
Why do you listen to a shell
And watch the billows curl,
And throw away your diamond ring
And wear instead the pearl?

*Mother I hear the water
Beneath the headland pinned,
And I can hear the sea-gull
Sliding down the wind.
I taste the salt upon my tongue
As sweet as sweet can be.*

Tell me my dear,
Whose voice do you hear?

It is the sea, the sea.



Name:	Class:	Date:
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1 List **two** ways in which the writer shows you that this text is a conversation.

2f

 2 marks

2 In verse 2, which senses does Sarah Jane use when talking about the thimbleful of water?

2b

 1 mark

3 *"I can hear the seagull Sliding down the wind."*

In this verse, which of the following is 'sliding down' closest in meaning to? Choose **one**.

- diving down, out of the sky
- gliding on gusts of wind
- squawking and crying for food
- swaying, perched on a mast top

2a

 1 mark

4 Why is the mother worried that Sarah Jane has swapped her diamond for a pearl (verse 3)?

2d

 1 mark

5 Some of the things Sarah Jane talks about are in the real world, and some are not. What do you think is not in the real world? Explain your answer.

2b

 1 mark

6 What do you think is happening to Sarah Jane? Give two ideas, using evidence from the text.

2d

 3 marks