

# The Man Whose Mother Was a Pirate

Margaret Mahy

- 1 Suddenly there was the sea.
- 2 The little man could only stare. He hadn't dreamed of the BIGNESS of the sea. He hadn't dreamed of the blueness of it. He hadn't thought it would roll like kettledrums, and swish itself on to the beach. He opened his mouth, and the drift and the dream of it, the weave and the wave of it, the fume and foam of it never left him again. At his feet the sea stroked the sand with soft little paws. Farther out, the great, graceful breakers moved like kings into court, trailing the peacock-patterned sea behind them.
- 10 A rosy sea captain stopped to watch them.
- 11 "Well, here are two likely people," he cried. "Will you be my bo'sun, Madam? And you, little man, you can be my cabin boy."
- 13 "Thank you!" said the little man.
- 14 "Say, 'Aye, aye, sir!'" roared the captain.
- 15 "Aye, aye, sir!" replied the little man just as smartly as if he'd been saying, "Aye, aye, sir!" all his life.



<b>Name:</b>	<b>Class:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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1 List all the people who are on the beach in this extract.

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2b

1 mark

2 How do you know that the little man hadn't ever seen the sea before this? Use a word or phrase from the text in your answer.

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2d

1 mark

3 Reread paragraph 2. Tick the sentence that summarises this paragraph best. Tick **one**.

The little man thought the sea was very loud and very big.

The little man fell in love with the sea and knew it would never leave him.

The little man was surprised that the sea was full of people, animals and birds.

2g

1 marks

4 "He opened his mouth and the drift and the dream of it, the weave and the wave of it, the fume and the foam of it never left him again." (paragraph 2)

Why do you think the author used pairs of words like drift and dream, weave and wave, fume and foam?

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2g

1 mark

5 The sea did not really "[stroke] the sand with soft little paws" (paragraph 2), so why did the author use those words?

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2g

1 mark

6 How does the little man's reaction to seeing the sea help you to understand why he agreed to be a cabin boy so quickly?

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2d

1 mark

7 "here are two likely people". What does the word "likely" mean in this sentence? Tick **one**.

They look like they will agree to what he wants them to do.

The sea captain likes the look of them.

They are strangers.

They have nothing else to do but stand on the sand and look at the sea.

2a

1 mark

8 Do you think the sea captain is going to be a kind man?

Yes  No

Use ideas from the text in your answer.

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2e

1 mark

9 Why do you think the captain wants the little man to say "Aye, aye sir!" instead of "Thank you!"?

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2g

1 mark