

The Spirit of Place

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A poem for four voices

Here is just the beginning of a **horror story**. Where will it end?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 1: There was a sea
 2: a blue sea
 3: a secret blue sea
 4: and in this sea
 1: there was an island
 2: a spiky island
 3: a spiky green island
 4: and in this island
 1: there was a valley
 2: a deep valley
 3: a hot deep valley
 4: and in this valley</p> | <p>26 1: And in a hurricane
 2: a tearing hurricane
 3: a fierce tearing hurricane
 4: that tree cracked
 All: <i>cracked to the roots.</i>
 1: And out of those roots
 2: those shattered roots
 3: roots laid bare in the howl
 4: climbed the creature
 1: the wild creature
 2: so full of energy
 3: so full of destruction
 4: it shrieked for escape.</p> |
| <p>13 1: there was a tree
 2: a vast tree
 3: a vast ancient tree
 4: and in the roots of this tree
 1: there was an egg
 2: a historic egg
 3: a prehistoric egg
 4: and in this egg
 1: there was a creature
 2: a live creature
 3: a creature so wild
 4: so full of energy
 All: <i>the old tree trembled.</i></p> | <p>39 1: There was a sea
 2: a blue sea
 3: a boiling blue sea
 4: and in this sea
 1: there was an island
 2: a spiky island
 3: an island in turmoil
 4: it was ready to plunge
 1: plunge into the sea
 2: the boiling sea
 3: and swim, swim, swim
 All: <i>towards us all.</i></p> |

Name:	Class:	Date:
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1 Do you think the island sounded welcoming at the beginning of the poem?

Yes No

Explain your answer using ideas from the poem.

2d

2 marks

2 What are the first words in the poem that warn us we should fear the creature?

2g

1 mark

3 Find and copy three powerful words the poet uses in verse 3 (beginning “*And in a hurricane*”) to show the strength of the wind.

2g

3 marks

4 What is the impact of the poet’s use of four voices? Explain your answer using ideas from the poem.

2f

2 marks

5 Why do you think the poet decided to write about a storm at the point in the story when the creature is born?

2f

1 mark

6 The last verse begins by nearly repeating the lines at the beginning of the first verse.

Why do you think the poet changes “*secret*” (verse 1) to “*boiling*” (verse 4)?

Explain why the poet used **both** of the words.

2h

2 marks

7 There are four verses in this poem. Complete this table showing the main idea of each verse.

Verse	Main idea
1	establish the setting and introduce the egg
2	
3	
4	

2c

3 marks

8 “*an island in turmoil*” (verse 4). What does the word “*turmoil*” mean in this poem?

Tick the best option.

order chaos calm escape

2a

1 mark

9 What is the poet’s feeling about the creature? Use words from the poem in your answer.

2d

2 marks