

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
 <i>All: 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
 <i>All: 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
 <i>All: 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