



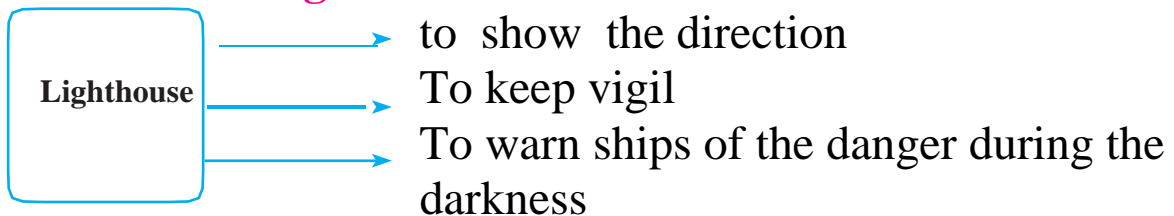
2.3 The Inchcape Rock

ICE BREAKERS

1] Prepare a word register related to marine life.

Ans: Sailors, Captain, Navy, Storms, Water, Sharks, Ships, Transport, Salt, Waves, Tide, Coast etc.

2] The functions of a lighthouse are –



3] Discuss in pairs the various famous rocks in the world and mention the places where they are.

Famous Rock	Place
Balancing Rock	Mahabalipuram
Marble Rocks	Jabalpur, India
Old Harry Rocks	England
Ayers Rock	Australia

4] Narrate in the class a story about someone who destroyed or spoilt someone else's good work.

Ars: Mohan and Neeta were studying in std.12th. Mohan was very poor in study but Neeta was intelligent in it. In the final paper of board's exam, Mohan sat exactly behind Neeta. Mohan was unprepared for his examination. So, he had carried a copy with him and started writing on his answer sheet. But when the teacher came near Mohan and was checking him, he secretly threw that copy towards Neeta. The Teacher checked Mohan but he didn't get anything. He saw a copy near the Neeta's seat. So, the teacher suspected Neeta. Neeta convinced the

teacher but he didn't agree and punished her. Neeta got disturbed and was unable to write further. Thus, Mohan spoilt Neeta's good work & career.

5] Discuss in pairs and groups the following expressions. Take the help of your teacher.

Ans: 1] As you sow so shall you reap.

Ex – Farmers, teachers and many other good persons are sowing good things and they will get good results in their life.

2] Crime gets its own punishment.

Ex- A student, who has passed board's exam by copying, will fail in CET.

3] What goes around comes around

Ex – If someone always looks doubtfully to others, in return, he will be looked at doubtfully

4] Tit for tat.

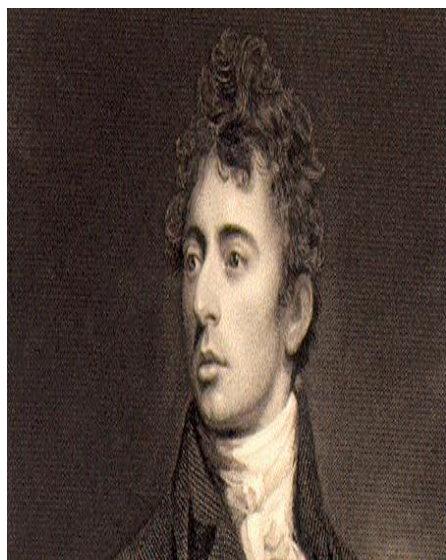
Ex – In most of the Indian movies the villain gets the same treatment in the end of the cinema which he gives to the hero earlier.

5] Evil digs a pit for others but falls into the same

Ex –A corrupt person. Who cheats people, may get cheated

Robert Southey (1774 to 1843) He was born in Bristol, England. He was the son of a draper (**a person who sells textile fabrics**), educated at Westminster School and Balliol College, Oxford.

He was a Poet Laureate of England from 1813 to 1843. Some of his short poems like 'The Scholar'. 'The Battle of Blenheim', 'Bishop Hatto', 'The Inchcape Rock' etc. are very popular with the school children.



'The Inchcape Rock' is a **ballad (a poem or song narrating a story in short stanzas)**. It's the story of the 14th century attempt by the Abbot of Aberbrothok to install a warning bell on Inchcape, a notorious (**A person famous for some bad quality or deed.**) sandstone reef (rock) about 11 miles (18km) off the east coast of Angus, Scotland, near Dundee and

Fife, occupied by the Bell Rock Lighthouse.

Southey was inspired by the legendary (very well-known /imaginary) story of a pirate (**a person who attacks and robs ships at sea.**) who removed the bell on the Inchcape Rock placed by the Abbot of Aberbrothok. The poem gives us a message that those who do wrong things will meet with due punishment.



(A1) Narrate in groups the scene described in the beginning of the poem.

Ans.: In the beginning of the poem the poet depicts the scene of ocean. The air, the sea and the ship were peaceful and calm means motionless. And keel of the ship was also steady.

The waves were rising and falling so little that they did not make any sound. The waves were gently flowing over the Inchcape Rock without moving or ringing the bell.

(A2) (i) Complete the following statements.

1] The Abbot of Aberbrothok placed a bell on the Inchcape Rock because..

Ans.: His bell will ring during the storms and alert about the hidden rock and avoid the danger of an accident.

2] The mariners were grateful to the Abbot of Aberbrothok because.....

Ans.: he saved them from the wrecking their ship by placing a bell on the Inchcape Rock

3] The result of the thick haze that covered the sky was that.....

Ans.: Sir Ralph the Rover and his crew could not see the sun in the sky to get direction or could not see the land or rock nearby to save from them.

4] The Rover in frustration pulled his hair and cursed himself because.....

Ans.: he himself was the victim of the Inchcape rock due to his misdeed. Finally his ship was crashed against the Inchcape rock.

5] The waves didn't move the Inchcape bell because.....

Ans.: The waves were small and there was no stir in the air or sea therefore they did not move the Inchcape bell.

6] The bell was placed on the rock because.....

Ans.: The bell was placed on the rock so that sailors could know that they are close to the Inchcape Rock hidden under the waves and prevent crashing into it.

7] The birds sounded happy that day because...

Ans : The birds sounded happy that day as the day was bright and sunny.

8] The sailors couldn't tell where they were because

Ans: There was a lot of haze and darkness engulfing the ocean due to which the sailors couldn't see where they were.

9] At the end of the stanza the ship.....

Ans: The ship crashes against the Inchcape rock and Sir Ralph died.

10] Sir Ralph the Rover heard the bell was ringing as the ship sank -----

Ans.: Sir Ralph the Rover believed he heard the Devil ringing the bell

(ii) Given below are the events that give the theme of the poem in a jumbled form. Arrange in a proper sequence as per their occurrence.

- 1] The waves were so small that they did not move enough to ring the bell at the Inchcape Rock.
- 2] The Abbot of Aberbrothok had placed the bell on a buoy on the rock.
- 3] There was a thick haze spread over the atmosphere.
- 4] Ralph bent over from the boat.
- 5] Sir Ralph cursed himself in despair and in his frustration tore

his hair.

Ans. : (2) The Abbot of Aberbrothok had placed the bell on a buoy on the rock.

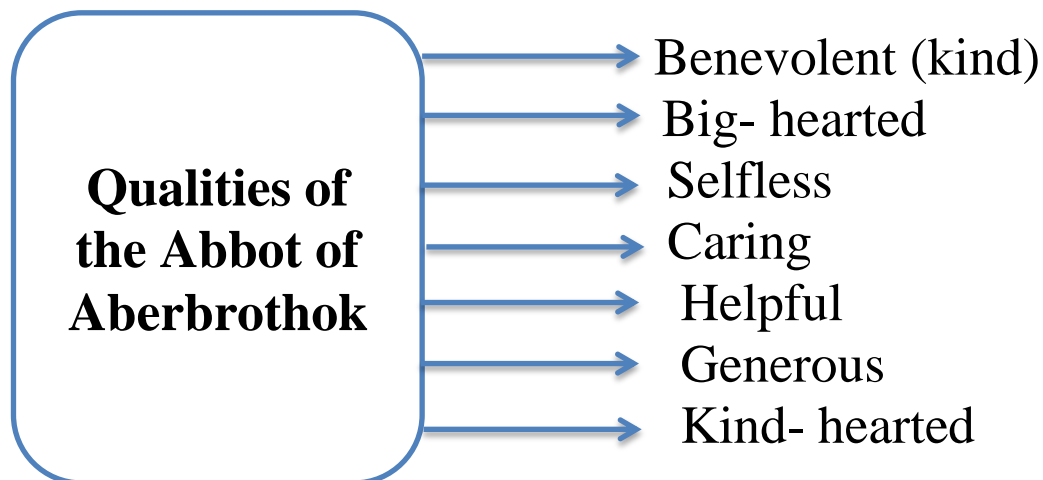
(1) The waves were so small that they did not move enough to ring the bell at the Inchcape Rock.

(4) Ralph bent over from the boat.

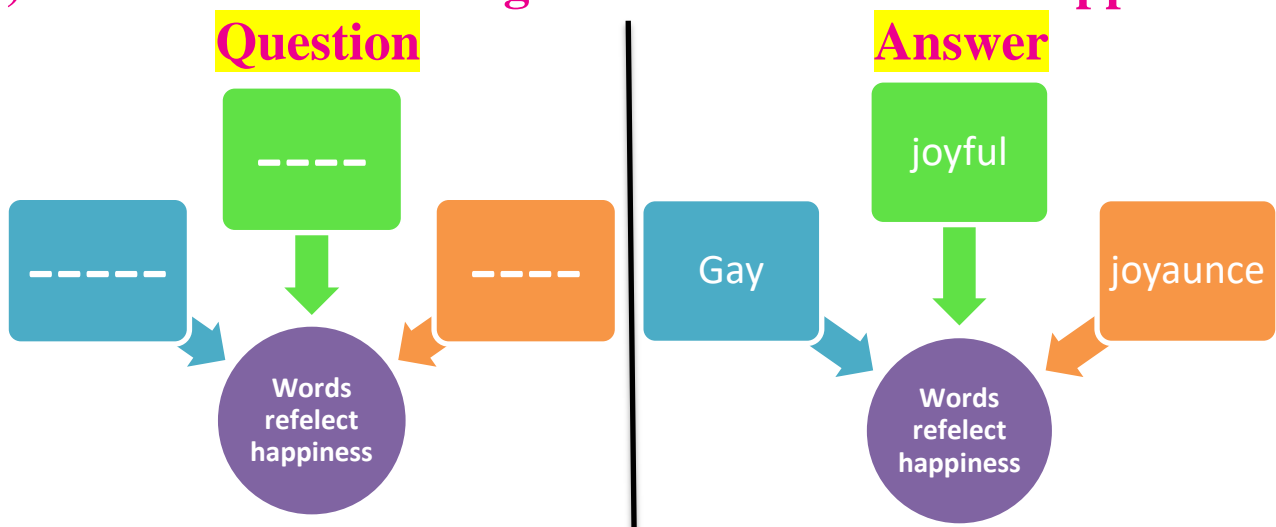
(3) There was a thick haze spread over the atmosphere.

(5) Sir Ralph cursed himself in despair and in his frustration tore his hair.

(iv) Describe the qualities of the Abbot of Aberbrothok in your own words.



(v) List words from the given lines that reflect happiness.



(vi) The word sail'd means 'sailed', but is written in a different way. Find other such words in the given lines and also state their modern spelling.

Ans: (1) scour'd: scoured, (2) plunder'd: plundered, (3) o'er: over

(vii) Write two conditions that lead to the wreckage of the ship.

Ans: The following two conditions caused the ship to crash against the rock.

1] Bad weather and

2] the absence of the Inchcape bell.

(viii) Compare and contrast the character of Sir Ralph the Rover with that of the Abbot of Aberbrothok.

	Abbot of Aberbrothok	Sir Ralph the Rover
Nature	benevolent man	cruel and an inhuman pirate
Action	placed a bell on the Inchcape Rock	cut the bell off from the Inchcape Rock
taught	the well-being of others	plundering and increasing his wealth
Result	Became famous	Punished for his recklessness.

(ix) Explain: The devil below was ringing his knell

Ans: The Rover was suffering from a hallucination (dream) the moment his ship was sinking and he was sure to die. He could hear the bell ringing under the sea, as he was feeling guilty for cutting it and carrying other people to danger. The poet has given the Biblical reference here that it was as if the Devil was ringing his death knell and calling him to the hell for his evil deeds. This is called poetic justice that Ralph the Rover deserved for his deeds.

(x) Write the lines which indicate that the ocean was calm and steady

Ans: The lines

1] 'No stir in the air, no stir in the sea' and
2] 'So little they rose, so little they fell'
indicate that the ocean was calm and steady.

(xi) Why has the rock been called perilous in the poem?

Ans: Perilous means dangerous. The Inchcape rock was perilous as it wasn't clearly visible to the sailors sailing in the sea and thus it caused many shipwrecks and deaths in the sea.

(xii) What were the motives behind the rover's wish to put Abbot of Aberbrothok into trouble?

Ans: Sir Ralph the Rover clearly wanted to put the passing ships into trouble, because he was jealous of the Abbot of Aberbrothok's fame that he achieved by tying the bell to the Inchcape rock. That is why he wanted to cut the bell and make an end to the Abbot's growing popularity. The purpose of looting the ships in danger was another reason behind this thought.

(xiii) What is your opinion on the poem Inchcape rock by Robert Southey?

Ans: Robert Southey's poem 'The Inchcape Rock' is a didactic poem where he narrates the legendary story surrounding the Inchcape Rock. The Abbott wanted to do some good to the mankind by tying a bell to the rock to alert the passing ships of the danger of the rock. But the Rover Ralph got jealous at the popularity of the Abbott. So he cut the bell from the rock and looted the ships that suffered due to bad weather and hit the rock. In the end, the rover himself got punished when his own ship lost the way and hit the same rock, causing his death. This is called poetic justice in literary term. The poet has delivered a great message through the poem: 'As you sow, so shall you reap'.

(xi) 'Jealousy' is the most incurable defect (weakness).

Justify.

Ans. 'Jealousy means 'envy and negativity. The reason for jealousy is lack of self-confidence and poor self-image. It turns friends to foes/ enemies. People get jealous for the success, fame and achievement of others. They don't try to achieve the same but take pleasure in harming good people. A lot of self-training is required to get rid of the negative emotion of jealousy. As long as a person holds negativity, he/she can never change. Thus, jealousy is the most incurable defect.



(x) 'But the Rover's mirth was wickedness'. Explain this line in your own words with the help of the poem.

Ans. Sir Ralph the Rover was overjoyed to see the Inchcape bell. But there was a sinful thought in his mind, behind this happiness to damage the good work of the Abbot of Aberbrothok. Sir Ralph thought that if he cuts the bell, it will save no more ships and the seamen will no longer bless the Abbot. So this attitude shows that Rover's mirth was wickedness.

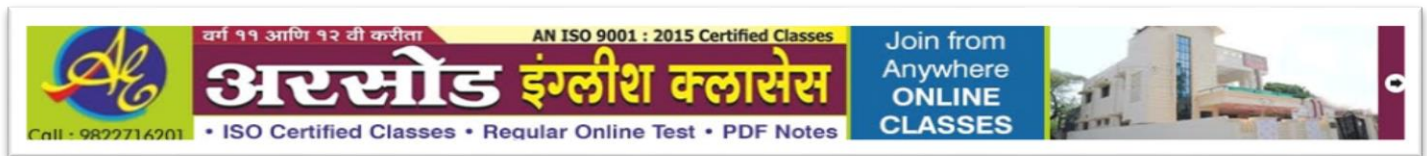
(A3) Some words in the poem are related to different parts of a ship or a mariner's life. Given below are the meanings of those terms. Identify the word.

1] Helps in steering the ship	Sail
2] The lowest part of the ship	Keel
3] Floating object that shows direction	Buoy
4] Another name for a ship	Vessel, boat
5] Sinking sound	gurgling

(A4) (i) Ballad

A ballad is a song that tells a story, and it can be dramatic, funny or romantic. It has been considered a

folkloric (traditional) verse (poem) which has strong associations with communal dancing. From the 18th century onwards, ballads' began to be made. A typical ballad consists of stanzas that contain a quatrain (a stanza of four lines, especially one having alternate rhymes.), or four poetic lines. Some ballads have a refrain just like a song does. The rhyme scheme adds musical quality to the poem.



(ii) Select the appropriate figure of speech from the box given below and complete the table.

Metaphor, Alliteration, Repetition, Personification, Inversion, Simile, Apostrophe, Onomatopoeia		
Examples	Figure of speech	Explanation
1. Sir Ralph the Rover tore his hair.	Alliteration	because here the sound of letters 'r' is repeated
2. No stir in the air no stir in the sea.	Repetition	because here the word 'no stir' is repeated
3. On a buoy in the storm it floated and swung.	Inversion	The correct order is -It floated and swung on a buoy in the storm.
4. Down sank the bell with a gurgling sound.	Onomatopoeia	because here the word gurgling suggests sound
5. The devil below was ringing his knell.	Onomatopoeia	because here the word ringing suggests sound
6. The ship was as still as she could be.	Personification/ Simile	
7. On the deck the Rover takes his stand.	Inversion	
8. Oh Christ !	Apostrophe	

(iii) Find and explain figures of speech....

1) No stir in the air, no stir in the sea

Repetition because here the word 'no stir' is repeated.

Alliteration because here the sound of letters 'n' & 's' are repeated.

2) The ship was still as she could be

Personification because here the ship is personified.

Alliteration because here the sound of letter 'sh' is repeated.



3) Her sails from heaven received no motion

Personification because here the ship is personified.

Inversion because here the sentence is not in correct prose order. The correct order is - Her sails received no motion from heaven.

4) Her keel was steady in the ocean.

Personification because here the ship is personified.

5) So little they rose, so little they fell

Repetition because here the word 'little' is repeated.

Antithesis because here the opposite words (rose and fell) are used.

Personification because here the waves are personified.

6) On a buoy in the storm it floated and swung.

Inversion because here the sentence is not in correct prose order. The correct order is - It floated and swung on a buoy in the storm.

Alliteration because here the sound of letter 's' is repeated.



7) And over the waves its warning rung.

Alliteration because here the sound 'w' is repeated.

Personification because here the waves are personified.

Inversion because here sentence is not in the correct prose order.
The correct prose order is 'Its warning rung over the waves.'

8) When the Rock was hide by the surge's swell

Alliteration because here the sound of letter 's' is repeated.

Personification because here the rock is personified.

9) The sun in heaven was shining gay.

Inversion because here the sentence is not in correct prose order.
The correct order is -The sun was shining gay in heaven.

10) The sea-birds scream'd as they wheel's around.

Alliteration because here the sound of letter 's' is repeated.

11) The boat is lower'd, the boatmen row.

Climax because here the words are arranged in the ascending order

Alliteration because here the sound of letter 'b' is repeated.

12) And to the Inchcape Rock they go

Inversion because here the sentence is not in correct prose order.
The correct order is -And they go to the Inchcape Rock.

13) Sir Ralph bent over from the boat.

Alliteration because here the sound 'b' is repeated.

14) And he cut the Bell from the Inchcape float.

Alliteration because here the sound 'f' is repeated.

15) Down sunk the Bell with a gurgling sound.

Onomatopoeia because here the word gurgling suggests sound.

16) The bubbles rose and burst around.

Onomatopoeia because here the word burst suggests sound

Alliteration because here the sound of letter 'b' is repeated.

Climax because here the words are arranged ascending order.

17) He scour'd the seas for many a day.

Alliteration because here the sound 's' is repeated.

18) On the deck the Rover takes his stand,

Inversion because here the sentence is not in correct prose order.

The correct order is -The Rover takes his stand on the deck.

19) For there is the dawn of rising Moon.'

Paradox because here two contradictory ideas are used.

20) 'Canst hear', said one, 'breakers roar?'

Interrogation because here the question mark is used here.

21) For methinks we should be near the shore.

Alliteration because here the sound of letter 's' is repeated.

22) Now where we are I cannot tell.

Inversion because here the sentence is not in correct prose order.

The correct order is -I cannot tell where we are now.

23) Till the vessel strikes with a shivering shock,

Alliteration because here the sound of letter 's' is repeated.

Transferred Epithet because here the adjective 'shivering' transferred from human to shock.

Personification because here the word shock is personified.

24) O Christ! it is the Inchcape Rock!

Apostrophe because here god has been addressed.

Exclamation because here the exclamatory mark is used.

25) The waves rush in every side

Personification because here the waves are personified.

26) But even in his dying fear

Transferred Epithet because here the adjective dying is transferred from human to fear.

Personification because here the fear is personified.

27) A sound as if with the Inchcape Bell

Simile because here the sound of sinking ship is directly compared with sound of sinking the Inchcape Bell.



(A5) Inchcape Rock'. Compose 4 to 6 lines on 'sea'.

Ans. I like the blue Arabian sea
I give more time to see the sea
In Mumbai, I meet her everywhere
Taking the tea sitting on shore,

(B) Write an appreciation of the poem.

Ans. About the poem/poet and the title:

'The Inchcape Rock' by Robert Southey is a ballad of seventeen stanzas. The poem is about some dangerous rocks near the coast of Scotland. The title of the poem is very suitable because the rock is a central point of the whole poem.

The theme:

The theme of the poem is on the proverb '**Evil digs a pit for others but falls into the same** (बुराई दूसरों के लिए एक गड्ढा खोदती है लेकिन उसी में गिर जाती है)'. It is about the evil feeling of jealousy. The Abbot installed a bell on the dangerous Inchcape rock to save the ships from the dangerous rock during the storms. So, the seamen

blessed the Abbot for his good work.

But Rove felt jealous at the fame of the Abbot and cut down the bell from the Inchcape rock. But finally he himself was the victim of the Inchcape rock.

Poetic style:

The poem is a ballad type. It has a, a, b, b rhyme scheme. There are total seventeen stanzas and each stanza consist four lines. There are some archaic (old) words used in the poem, such as **quoth, canst, blest, hath** etc.

The language/ poetic devices used in the poem:



The language of the poem is very simple and easy to understand. The poem consists of different figures of speech such as personification, Transferred Epithet, simile, repetition, paradox, alliteration, onomatopoeia, apostrophe, inversion etc. The poem consists vivid imagery of the 'bright, shining sun', 'hazy sky', the 'steady ship', 'green ocean', 'birds wheeling around', 'sinking ship'. etc. The use of symbolism also adds to the beauty of the poem where the Abbot is the symbol of good, while Sir Ralph symbolizes the evil.

Special features:

The poem is didactic in nature, meaning that it conveys a moral through the story depicted in it. The moral of this poem is 'As you sow, so shall you reap'.

Opinion:

In my opinion the poem is the best moral for all the human being. It is applicable for the current society to stop crimes and evil deeds.

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