

THE INCHCAPE ROCK

By Robert Southey

Unit 2-

1. How does the poet describe the Inchcape Rock?

ans - the poet states that the Inchcape Rock was a few inches high above the surface of the sea in low tide and was completely covered by the sea in high tide or when the sea was rough.

2. Was the Inchcape Rock dangerous? Give your reasons?

ans - the Inchcape Rock was quite dangerous, because during sunny days the huge stone could be easily noticed but it was completely covered by the sea in a high tide or when the sea swelled. As a result, many ships had been wrecked.

3. Why did the Abbot place a bell on the Inchcape Rock?

ans - The Abbot placed a bell on the Inchcape Rock to warn the sailors of the presence of this fatal rock nearby.

4. When did the Inchcape bell ring?

ans - The Inchcape bell rang during a storm or when the sea swelled.

5. Why did Macnagense like the Abbot?

ans - Mariner blessed the Abbot because he saved many
imminent ship-wrecks during the storm by placing
Jell on the perilous Inchaape Rock. In other words
humanitarian deed gave them strength where nature
was inhospitable.

Unit II -

1. How does the poet express "the cheering power of spring"?

ans - The poet expresses the cheering power of spring in
a sense of bright sun, screaming birds and
joy in their sounds. Movement was in the air.

2. How did Ralph come across the Inchaape Bell?

ans - Ralph ^{came} across the Inchaape Bell by walking his deck
and focusing his attention on it when spring set
in and it surfaced on the calm sea.

3. What was effect of "the cheering power of spring" on
Ralph?

ans - The cheering power of spring made Ralph whistle
and sing, and filled his heart with great
delight.

4. What kind of a person was Ralph? Which line tells
you so?

ans - Ralph was a wicked person to the backbone. The line

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'His heart was mirthful to excess' tells us so.

5. What act of wickedness did he do?

ans- He committed a wicked deed by cutting the bell that the Abbot Aberbrothok had placed on the dangerous Inchcape Rock.

6. Why did he do the wicked act?

ans- He did the wicked act because the sailors would not bless the Abbot Aberbrothok.

Unit II -

1. How did Ralph become rich?

ans- Ralph became rich by plundering the ships that met with wreck.

2. Why did the ship lose its way in the sea while it was heading towards Scotland?

ans- The ship lost its way in the sea while it was heading towards Scotland because of a dense fog and a strong gale. Besides, it was nearing night time.

3. Why did a mariner think that they were near the shore?

ans- A mariner thought that they were near the shore.

4. "Oh Christ! It is the Inchcape Rock!" - why did the mariners exclaim so?

ans - The mariners exclaimed so in their state of helplessness to their stunned disbelief, they feel the presence of the dangerous Inchcape Rock and consequently think of their imminent death. In Christ, they see their saviour.

5. Why did Sir Ralph curse himself?

ans - Sir Ralph cursed himself, because he realized that his notorious act of cutting the bell to furnish the image of the Abbot of Aberbrothok paved the way for the sinking of his own ship in the roiling waves of the sea.

6. "The Devil below was ringing his knell." - What does this expression mean?

ans - The expression 'The Devil below was ringing his knell' means the death of the notorious Ralph or the Rover. Even as he was dying, he could hear one fearful sound as if it was the warning sound of the Inchcape bell.

7. Do you find this poem musical? The rhyme scheme of the first stanza is AAB. Is the rhyme scheme same for all the stanzas?

ans - We find this poem completely musical. The poet's purpose

use of alliteration - 'S' sea/ship/still and so on
justifies this fact. The rhyme scheme is the same
for all the stanzas.

To My True Friend Elizabeth Pinard.

1. What does the poet pray for?

ans - The poet prays for keeping their friendship in tact
for all time to come. In other words, she prays
for their never ending friendship.

2. How did the friend encourage the poet?

ans - The friend encouraged the poet to keep her going
when she was passing through a difficult time.

3. How did the friend reassure her?

ans - The friend reassured her by telling her to get rid
of sorrow and infusing in her mind the hope of
a better tomorrow that will bring her joy
and happiness.

4. Why did the poet trust her friend?

ans - The poet trusted her friend, because she was always
there to advise and encourage when she found
herself in a fix.

5. How did the friend inspire self-confidence in the poet?

ans - The friend inspired self-confidence in the poet by telling her that she was capable of doing anything she concentrated on.

6. How does the poet cherish the memory of her friend?

ans - The poet deeply cherishes the memory of her friend. She wants to treasure her happy smile with great love.

7. Are the friends staying close to each other? Quote the line in support of your answer.

ans - The friends are not staying close to each other. The line "We are separated by many miles" is a case in point.

8. How does the poet value her friendship?

ans - In the poet's view, her friendship is of great value to her. She hopes it grows and prospers and survives for ever.

9. Why does she call her friend extra special?

ans - She calls her friend extra special because she is her only genuine friend, her guide and protector.