

Improving Your Reading with Predicting Pip: Out on the Ocean



Early on a summer morning, two men headed to the shore, launched their boat and set sail. It was the calm hour of the morning before sunrise, when most living creatures are still asleep. The sea was like a sheet of undulating glass. A breeze had been expected but it had not arrived, so the boatmen needed to use their oars. They used them well and the land finally vanished in the mists of morning.

Under the regular stroke of the oars the boat advanced steadily, straight out to sea. At first, the mirror over which they skimmed was grey but soon they rowed into a brighter region. The sea ahead lightened up, becoming pale yellow before blazing into liquid gold. Suddenly, the calm of the crystalline ocean was broken by a noise, which stirred both rowers' attention.

“D’ye hear that, Davy?” enquired the first of the men.

“Aye, I sure do,” replied Davy, turning his attention to the source.



1. What do you think the two men intended to do? Why do you think this?

2. What else do we need to know about the men to fully understand what they will do?
Give two points.

1. _____

2. _____

3. Based on this extract, what do you think the rest of the story will be about?

4. In this extract, the author heavily describes the current weather and sea condition. Do you think this will change as the story progresses? Explain your answer.



Answers

1. What do you think the two men intended to do? Why do you think this?
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the two men intended to catch some fish. I think this because they went out onto the sea early in the morning and that is something that fishermen do.
2. What else do we need to know about the men to fully understand what they will do? Give two points.
Pupils' own response should contain any two acceptable points, such as: what their jobs are; whether they have any equipment with them; how long they intend to be out on the water; whether they have done this before and what the outcome was.
3. Based on this extract, what do you think the rest of the story will be about?
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the rest of this story will be about two fishermen who make an extraordinary catch whilst out fishing.
4. In this extract, the author heavily describes the current weather and sea condition. Do you think this will change as the story progresses? Explain your answer.
Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I think that this will change because the story's plot would not be exciting if the weather remained calm and the men were able to sail easily.