

# The Sea - Literature Unit

## 2 Poems

### Sea Lullaby

The old moon is tarnished  
With smoke of the flood,  
The dead leaves are varnished  
With color like blood,

A treacherous smiler  
with teeth white as milk,  
A savage beguiler  
In sheathings of silk,

The sea creeps to pillage,  
She leaps on her prey;  
A child of the village  
Was murdered today.

She came up to meet him  
In a smooth golden cloak,  
She choked him and beat him  
To death, for a joke.

Her bright locks were tangled,  
She shouted for joy,  
With one hand she strangled  
A strong little boy.

Now in silence she lingers  
Beside him all night  
To wash her long fingers  
In silvery light.

by: Elinor Wylie

## Sea Fever

I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,  
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by,  
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shaking,  
And a gray mist on the sea's face and a gray dawn breaking.

I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide  
Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;  
And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying,  
And the flung spray and the blown spume and the sea gulls crying.

I must go down to the seas again to the vagrant gypsy life,  
To the gull's way and the whale's way where the wind's like a whetted knife;  
And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow rover,  
And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's over.

by: John Masefield

1. Write two similes from "Sea Lullaby", and then explain what each means.
  - a.
  - b.
2. What is the EXTENDED METAPHOR in "Sea Lullaby"?
3. In "Sea Lullaby", human qualities are given to the sea (personification). List 4 of them. The first one has been done for you.
  1. she creeps
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
4. Find and write the simile in "Sea Fever". What does it mean?
5. Which of the poems could have been written by Charlotte Doyle?