

Independent Study Pack 10.2



Please work through this booklet so that it can be marked and feedback given.

✓ Use your own workbook to complete the tasks.

✓ Use the booklet to complete the tasks.

Name

VMG

Maths:

Complete 1 hour on Hegarty maths. Your teacher will be able to see what you have completed and give you feedback.

This extract is from the opening of a novel called *The Mermaid* by Christina Henry. It was written in 2018. The novel tells the story of a mermaid who becomes a human in order to marry the man she loves. In this section, the man and mermaid meet each other.

Once there was a fisherman, a lonely man who lived on a cold and rocky coast and was never able to convince any woman to come away and live in that forbidding place with him. He loved the sea more than any person and so was never able to take a wife for women see what is in men's hearts more clearly than men would wish.

But though he loved the freezing spray on his face and the sight of the rolling clouds on the horizon, he still wished for somebody to love. One evening after a long day, he pulled up his net and found a woman in it—something like a woman, anyway, with black hair and eyes as grey as a stormy sea and a gleaming fish's tail.

He was sorry that she was caught and told her so, though the storm in her eyes rolled into his heart. She stopped her thrashing and crashing at his voice, though she did not understand his words. The fisherman loosed her, and she dove back into the water the way a wild thing returns to a wild place, and he watched her go.

But her eyes had seen inside him the way that women's eyes do, and his loneliness snaked into her, and she was sorry for it, for that loneliness caught her more surely than the net.

She swam away from his boat as fast as she could, and she felt his loneliness trailing between them like a cord. She did not want his feelings to bind her, to pull her back to him, so her tail flashed silver in the water and her eyes looked straight before her and never behind.

But though she didn't look back, she felt him watching, and she remembered the shape of his boat and the rocky curve of the land not too far off and the lines around his eyes, eyes that were as dark as the deep sea under the moon. She remembered, and so she returned again to watch him.

She was called a name that meant, in her own tongue, Breaking the Surface of the Sea. When she was bom, she'd come in a great hurry, much sooner than all of her six older sisters and brothers. The attendant who'd aided her mother had been astonished when she tried to swim away before the cord that bound her to mother was cut.

Her mother and father and siblings spend most of her childhood trying to find her, for she was never where she ought to be. She was warned repeatedly of the dangers of the surface and of the men who cast nets there, and of their cruelty to the denizens of the ocean.

They should never have told her, for in the telling she wanted to know more, and wanting to know more led her farther and farther afield.

Checking understanding

Circle the correct answers.

1. On line 2, the writer uses the adjective **forbidding**. Which definition best matches the word?

[a] not allowed	[b] unfriendly or threatening	[c] asking someone to do something	[d] somewhere no one would want to go
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2. On line 14, the writer uses the verb **snake**. Which definition best matches the meaning of the word?

[a] move in an evil or sinister way	[b] slither	[c] move with the twisting motion of a snake	[d] crush something
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3. On line 30, the writer uses the noun **denizens**. Which definition best matches the meaning of the word?

[a] being which live in a particular environment	[b] people who live in a city	[c] groups of ten people	[d] people elected to a particular office
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4. The fisherman is a lonely man.

True	False
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5. The fisherman traps and keeps the mermaid

True	False
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6. The mermaid is cowardly.

True	False
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7. Which words sum up the mermaid's character. Select three words.

wild	curious	unsatisfied
cowardly	aggressive	frightening

Improving analysis

The following are extracts from the text. Decide which analysis of the extract is the best one.

8. ...his loneliness snaked into her...

<p>The verb 'snaked' suggests that the feelings move insidiously inside of the mermaid and that there is nothing she or the fisherman could have done to prevent this.</p>	<p>The verb 'snaked' suggests that the feelings transfer from the fisherman to the mermaid in such a way that the mermaid can defend herself, the feelings are inside her head.</p>	<p>The verb 'snaked' has connotations of aggression and poison, and suggests that the fisherman deliberately makes the mermaid feel sorry for him.</p>
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9. ...she felt his loneliness trailing between them like a cord.

<p>The simile 'like a cord' makes the mermaid seem trapped by the fisherman; it is as if he has deliberately made her feel this way in order to capture her.</p>	<p>.The simile 'like a cord' suggests a tangible connection between the two characters and that the fisherman's sadness is stopping the mermaid from moving on.</p>	<p>The comparison to a 'cord' implies that the two characters feel connected as a result of the fisherman's sadness; this is particular emphasised because it is later suggested that she has never previously felt attached to anyone as when she was born she 'tried to swim away before the cord that bound her to her mother was cut'.</p>
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10. She was called a name that meant, in her own tongue, Breaking the Surface of the Water.

<p>The reference to 'her own tongue' highlights how alien the mermaid is, reinforcing the sense of wonder and fantasy surrounding this meeting; it makes the connection between the two even more startling as they cannot even communicate with words.</p>	<p>The use of the verb 'Breaking' in her name makes the mermaid seem aggressive and destructive.</p>	<p>By withholding the mermaid's name, the writer makes her seem even more magical and mysterious; simply sharing the meaning gives us some idea about her personality.</p>
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