

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

Grace Darling

It was a dark September morning. There was a storm at sea. A ship had crashed onto a low rock off the shores of the Farne Islands. It had been broken in two by the waves, and half of it had been washed away. The other half still lay on the rock, and the crew was clinging to it. But the waves were dashing over it, and, in a little while, it too would be carried to the bottom of the sea.

Could anyone save the poor, wet men who were there?

On one of the islands was a light-house, and there, all through that stormy night, Grace Darling had listened to the storm.

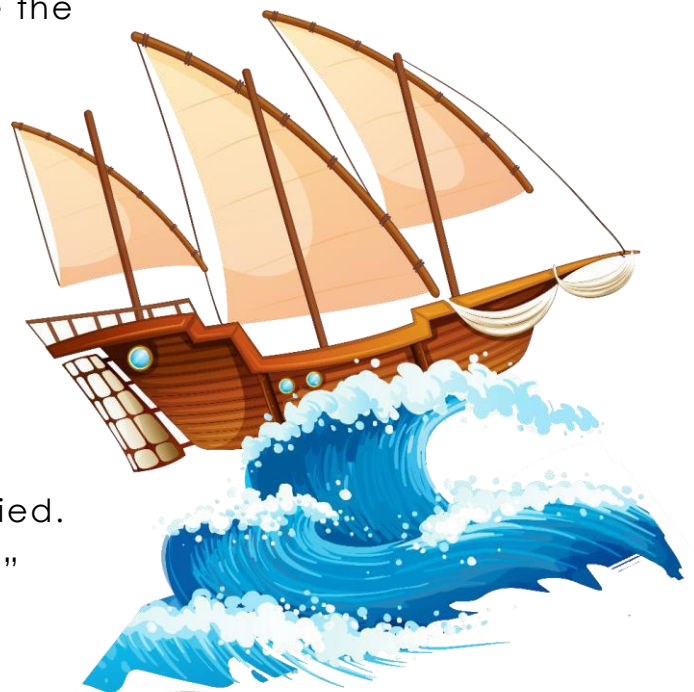
Grace was the daughter of the light-house keeper, and she had lived by the sea as long as she could remember.

In the darkness of the night, above the noise of the winds and waves, she heard screams and wild cries.

When daylight came, she could see the wreck a mile away with the angry waters all around it. She could see the men clinging to the masts.

“We must try to save them!” she cried.

“Let us go out in the boat at once!”



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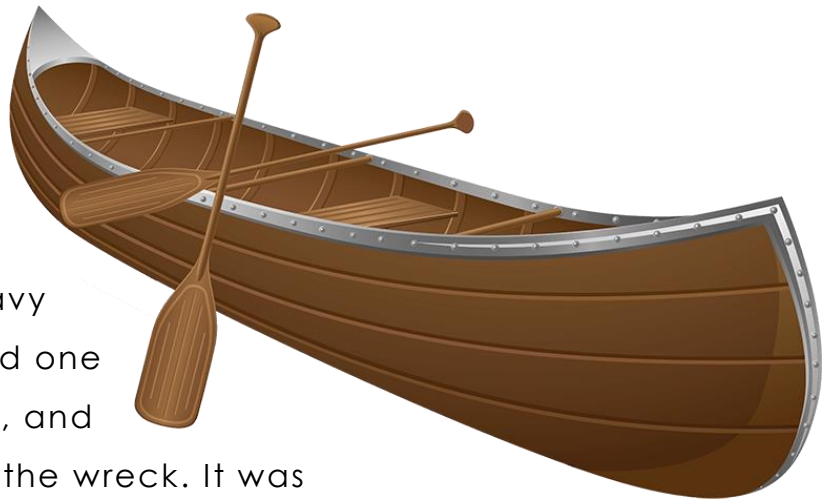
"It is of no use, Grace," said her father. "We cannot reach them."

He was an old man, and he knew the force of the mighty waves.

"We cannot stay here and see them drown," said Grace. "We must at least try to save them."

Her father could not say,
"No."

In a few minutes they were ready. They set off in the heavy lighthouse boat. Grace pulled one oar, and her father the other, and they steered straight toward the wreck. It was hard rowing against such a sea, and it seemed as though they would never reach the rock.



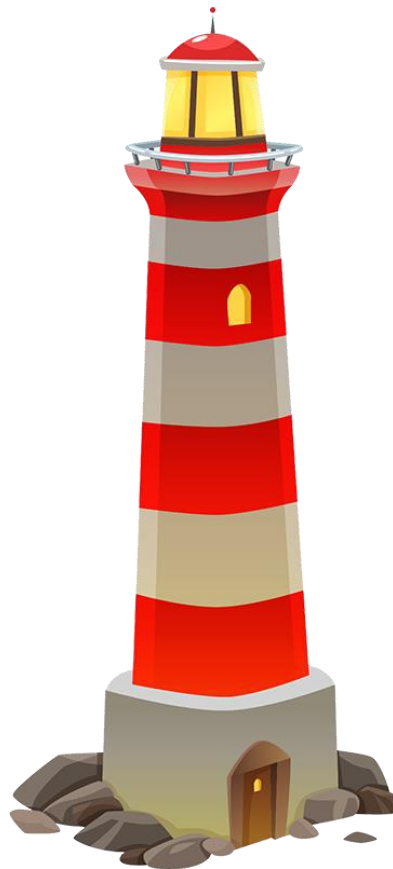
At last they were close to the rock, and now they were in greater danger than before. The fierce waves broke against the boat, and it would have been dashed in pieces had it not been for the strength and skill of the brave girl.

After many tries, Grace's father finally climbed on the wreck while Grace herself held the boat. Then, one by one, the worn-out crew members were helped on board. It was all that the girl could do to keep the frail boat from drifting away, or breaking upon the sharp edges of the rock.

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Then her father clambered back into his place. Strong hands grasped the oars, and soon all were safe in the lighthouse. There Grace proved to be as tender as a nurse, just like she had been brave as a sailor. She cared very kindly for the ship-wrecked men until the storm died away, and the men were strong enough to go to their own homes.

All this happened a long time ago, but the name of Grace Darling will never be forgotten. She lies buried now in a little churchyard by the sea, not far from her old home. Every year many people go there to see her grave, and there is a monument placed in honor of the brave girl. It is not a large monument, but it is one that speaks of the noble deed which made Grace Darling famous. It is a figure carved in stone of a woman lying at rest with a boat's oar held fast in her right hand.



Questions:

1. How did Grace know there was a ship wreck?

2. Why was it so dangerous to rescue the crew?

3. Why could the father not say "No" to Grace's plan to save the people?

4. Why do you think people still remember Grace Darling today?

Answers:

1. How did Grace know there was a ship wreck?
Grace heard the shouts and cries from the men.
2. Why was it so dangerous to rescue the crew?
It was so dangerous to rescue the men, because the waves were high and crashing against the rock.
3. Why could the father not say "No" to Grace's plan to save the people?
The father could not say no, because he knew it was the right thing to rescue the men.
4. Why do you think people still remember Grace Darling today?
People still remember Grace Darling because of her bravery in rescuing the men.