

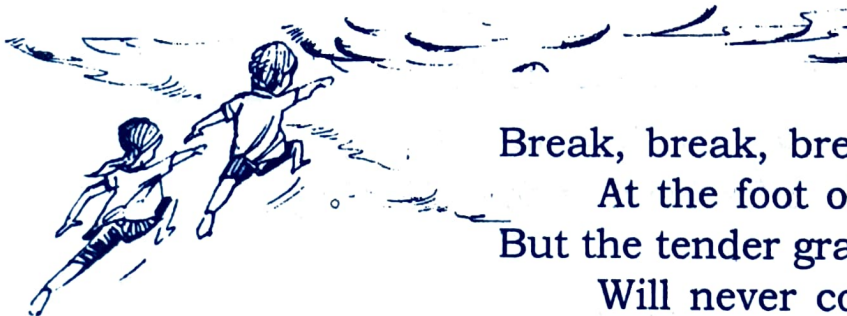
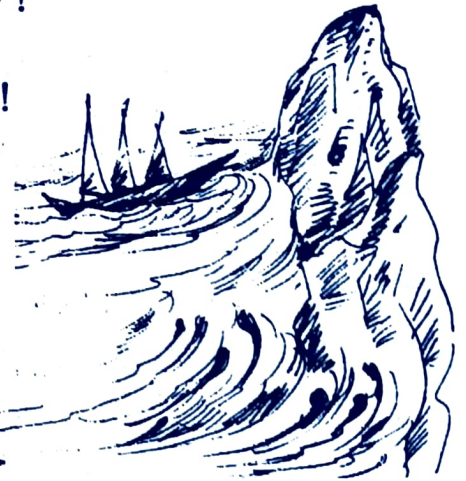
Break, Break, Break

[**Lord Alfred Tennyson** was born in Somerby Lincolnshire, England in 1809. He studied at Trinity College, Cambridge. He had an unhappy childhood with a violent father, and to escape from his grief he started writing poetry in his childhood. In college he met a dear friend Arthur Henry Hallam whose sudden death in 1833 added to the sorrow of his life. Some of his famous poems were 'In Memoriam', 'Ulysses', 'Idylls of the King' etc. He died in 1892.]

Break, break, break
 On thy cold gray stones, O Sea!
 And I would that my tongue could utter
 The thoughts that arise in me.

O well for the fisherman's boy,
 That he shouts with his sister at play!
 O well for the sailor lad,
 That he sings in his boat on the bay!
 And the stately ships go on
 To their haven under the hill;

But O for the touch of a vanished hand,
 And the sound of a voice that is still



Break, break, break
 At the foot of thy crags, O Sea!
 But the tender grace of a day that is dead
 Will never come back to me.

The poem : In the poem the poet is standing by the sea. He observes the ships and the fisherman. The absence of his dead friend by his side makes him sad and he laments his loneliness. The mighty waves of the sea remind the poet about the destructive forces of nature which took his friend away from him.

In this poem the poet addresses the sea as 'O Sea'. This is an 'apostrophe'. In poetry when the poet directly addresses an inanimate object, it is called 'apostrophe'.

Wordnote

thy	:	your
gray	:	grey (gray- American English)
utter	:	say
lad	:	(informal) a boy or young man
vanish	:	disappear suddenly
still	:	silent
crag	:	a steep rock
grace	:	attractive qualities

EXERCISE

1. Why did Tennyson start writing poems? 1
2. Where does the poet ask the sea waves to break? 1
3. What is the fisherman's boy doing? 1
4. What does the poet mean by 'vanished hand'? 2
5. Compare the feelings of the poet and the other people mentioned in the poem. 2
6. Explain with reference to the context. 4
"But the touch of a 'vanished hand'
And the sound of a voice that is still."
7. Give rhyming word for each of the following. $\frac{1}{2} \times 2 = 1$
bay, hill

