

Read the poem out loud. What kind of song does it sound like?

Look at stanza one. What do you notice about the first two lines and the final two lines of this stanza? Can you see this anywhere else in the poem?

The poem says 'All alone, just little me. And the sea is big and strong'. What does this suggest about the speaker in the poem?

Stanza two includes the lines 'Having just a little rest. I have really done my best'. How does this suggest to us that the speaker is a child?

The poem becomes sadder in stanza three. Why might the speaker feel sad when it says 'Far away, far away / From my home and from my play' and 'on a journey without an end'?

In stanza four, the speaker wakes up from a nightmare. What does he say to show us this?

The poem ends with the line 'Mother's arms around him – tight'. How do you think the speaker is feeling here?

How does the poem make you feel? What did you like about it?

When you read the poem out loud, what do you notice about the rhythm? What does it sound like?

Barring the final stanza, the first and final two lines of each stanza are repeated. Why might this be?

The poem says 'All alone, just little me. And the sea is big and strong'. What effect does this juxtaposition have?

Stanza two includes the line 'Having just a little rest, I have really done my best'. What might this suggest about the speaker of the poem?

What kind of mood is being created by the following lines:
'Far away, far way / From my home and from my play /
On a journey without end'?

Stanzas one to three have described a dream. The final stanza shows us that the dream has ended. How do you know this?

The poet shows that the dream has ended abruptly. How do we know this?

The poem ends with the line 'Mother's arms around him – tight'. What does this suggest about the speaker?

What is significant about the rhythm of the poem?

What do you notice about the structure of each stanza?

Stanza one emphasises the vulnerability of the speaker. How does it do this?

Stanza two hints that the journey may not be real and that the speaker may not be an adult. How is this achieved?

The tone of stanza three seems to change. What mood is created and how is this achieved?

The final stanza has a different structure and rhythm to the rest of the poem. Why might this be?

What do you notice about the personal pronoun use in the final stanza?

What does the final line suggest?