

Narrative poetry comprehension - suggested answers

Decode and explore vocabulary

Word	Guess the meaning	Actual meaning
maw dank mangled	Encourage looking at meanings of words in the context of the line, verse and overall story of the poem.	Use a dictionary to help find precise definitions, family words and etymology.

Retrieve

1. Make a list of the things the monster damages as it approaches:

The soil, trees and the shed are damaged by the monster.

2. In verse 4, what evidence is there that the monster means to do something bad?

It says the monster is ‘Smiling. Hungry.’ This infers it thinks it has won, it is confident, and it is going to eat / consume / destroy Conor.

Infer

3. Which word in the final paragraph suggests that Conor might still be in a dream?

The word ‘mesmerises’ suggests Conor is still in a dream.

4. What is it that destroys the monster?

Conor’s brave words / the shock of him refusing to cooperate / it is implied that he has faced this fear before ‘not afraid of you anymore’ and probably has shown fear. This time he stands up to the monster.

Choice of language

5. What is your impression of Conor at the start of the poem, compared to Conor at the end of the poem? Supply two pieces of evidence.

At the start, he was fearful ‘sudden - short - breaths’ ‘sweat trickled’ ‘thrashed like the sea’. At the end of the poem, he ‘becomes steel’ suggesting a new-found strength of character and showing no fear.