

Topic: Coromandel Fishers

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Read the poem



Rise, brothers, rise; the wakening skies pray to the morning light,  
The wind lies asleep in the arms of the dawn, like a child that has cried all night.  
Come, let us gather our nets from the shore and set our catamarans free,  
To capture the leaping wealth of the tide, for we are the sons of the sea.

No longer delay, let us hasten away in the track of the sea gull's call;  
The sea is our mother, the cloud is our brother, the waves are our comrades all.  
What though we toss at the fall of the sun where the hand of the sea-god drives?  
He who holds the storm by the hair, will hide in his breast our lives.

Sweet is the shade of the coconut glade, and the scent of the mango grove,  
And sweet are the sands at the full o' the moon with the sound of the voices we love;  
But sweeter, O brothers, the kiss of the spray and the dance of the wild foam's glee.  
Row, brothers, row to the edge of the verge, where the low sky mates with the sea.

Refer the link: <https://youtu.be/t8D6keZE-7Y>

### **Gist of the poem**

[Do not write the gist in the notebook]

In the poem Coromandel Fishers, Sarojini Naidu describes the life of the fishermen of the Coromandel coast. The poet is giving a call to the fishermen to get to work by dawn, as the weather is favourable in the morning, with the wind and sea being calm. The poet encourages the fishermen to gather their nets and set their catamarans free. According to the poet, the fishermen should not delay and follow the seagulls as these birds can lead them to the spot in the sea where there are fishes in abundance. The poet compares the sea, cloud and the waves to the fishermen's mother, brother and comrades respectively as they help the fishermen in fishing which is their source of livelihood. The poet says that, though the fishermen face a lot of dangers when at sea, they are not scared as the sea- god always saves them. The poet describes many things as sweet but for the fishermen, being at work in the sea is sweeter, thus describing the bond between the fishermen and the sea.

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### **Exercises**

#### **IV Read the following lines and answer the questions that follow:**

1. Come, let us gather our nets from the shore  
And set our catamarans free,  
To capture the leaping wealth of the tide,  
For we are the kings of the sea!
  - I. Whom does 'us' refer to ?
  - II. Why do they need their 'nets' and their 'catamarans' ?
  - III. Who are the 'kings' of the sea and why are they called so?
2. He who holds the storm by the hair,  
Will hide in his breast our lives.
  - a) Name the poet.
  - b) Who holds the storm ?
  - c) The above line indicates that the lives of fishermen involve a lot of risks. What type of risks do the fishermen have to face?

#### **V Answer the following questions in 50- 60 words:**

1. Describe the morning scene at the shore.
2. The poet describes many things as sweet. What are they? What is considered to be sweeter?

#### **VI Figures of Speech used in the poem:**

##### **Personification:**

- The wakening skies
- The wind lies asleep

- The storm by the hair
- Dance of the wild foam

**Simile:**

- The wind lies asleep in the arms of the dawn **like** a child

**Metaphor:**

- The sea is our mother
- The cloud is our brother
- The waves are our comrades

**SE activity : Retelling the Poem**

Write a poem on the life fishermen .

(Minimum 2 Stanzas of 4 lines each)

[ Do the activity in your Literature notebook ]

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