

Reading: Character Analysis

X ordered a strong and seaworthy ship to be fitted out for the quest, and hand-picked fourteen of the fiercest warriors they knew. Out of the sheltered fjord they rowed this sturdy warship and set sail for Denmark, riding the wind-whipped waves of the sea... Soon X and their ring-mailed thanes were leaping ashore, each one thanking God most fervently for their safe arrival.

So in war-dress of chainmail shirt, carrying their long ashen spears and great war shields, X and their warriors left their ship anchored fast in the lee of the cliff, and marched inland, their helmets gleaming bright in the afternoon sun; strong helmets that would surely protect them against the worst any enemy could do, or so they thought.

Extract adapted from Michael Morpurgo

Understanding the text

Before trying to answer questions on a text, we need to make sure we understand what the text is about.

Are there any words you unsure about?

Could you use the words or sentences around any unfamiliar words to suggest what they might mean?

If you're still not sure, where else could you look to help you?

Inferring meaning from the text

Remember, 'inferring' means being a little bit like a detective to use clues from the text to support what you think is happening or why it is happening.

Understanding the vocabulary (see opposite) will help you to do this.

If you need a reminder of where to look for clues in the text, watch this clip:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zs44jxs/articles/zqmyw6f>