

## Pre-reading work

Match the words to their closest synonym.

crimson

hammer

dreaded

vessels

monstrous

prows

hideous

feared

bang

front

red

ships

## Skimming and scanning for information

Find the words above in the text below and highlight them.

They came at dawn.

The sky was as red as blood and the clouds were ragged and black. The sea was as dark and oily-smooth as a monk's ink. The sails were dirty, dark smudges on the crimson sky.

I know this because my sister, Emma, saw them before anyone.

Emma sat on the cliff top shivering under her brown woollen cloak, which was the colour of autumn leaves. She knew she should run to the village and warn the people. She should hammer at the monastery door and tell the monks to ring the bell. The sound of that bell was the message they dreaded.

"The Vikings are back!"

But Emma couldn't move for a while. She couldn't take her eyes off the sword-sharp vessels that slid over the dark water. The black clouds split and the jagged red sky between them looked like a monstrous dragon.

Emma watched as the leather sails slid down the masts and the heavy oars were lowered into the water. Three dozen men on each ship pulled powerfully on their oars towards the beach. She could make out the dragon's head on the prows of the ships. A small figure clung to the steering oar at the back of one.

## Summarise

Summarise the text in less than 15 words.

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1. Look at the paragraph beginning 'the sky was...'. What mood do you think the author is trying to create and how does he do it? (3 marks)

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2. What impression do you have of the invaders? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

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3. Find two similes that the author has used. (2 marks)

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4. Find and copy a word which shows it is cold. (1 mark)

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5. Complete the table with an adjective used to describe each part of the ship. (1 mark)

sails	
oars	

6. How many men were pulling each ship? (1 mark)

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