

**Matthew Arnold**  
**Dover Beach**  
**More challenging questions!**

Worksheet by: Keith Tankard Knowledge4Africa.com
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1. "Dover Beach" is divided into four stanzas.
  - Explain the main themes of each stanza, using no more than 5 words each. (2 x 4)
2. Only, from the long line of spray  
Where the sea meets the moon-blanch'd land.
  - Why would "the moon-blanch'd land" be a particularly apt description of the land around Dover that particular night? (4)
3. Listen! you hear the grating roar  
Of pebbles which the waves draw back, and fling,  
At their return, up the high strand,  
Begin, and cease, and then again begin.
  - Comment on the rhythm of these four lines. (4)
  - Comment on the use of onomatopoeia in these lines. (4)
4. Begin, and cease, and then again begin,  
With tremulous cadence slow, and bring  
The eternal note of sadness in.
  - Why should the sound of the sea remind the poet of the "eternal note of sadness"? (4)
5. Sophocles long ago  
Heard it on the Aegean, and it brought  
Into his mind the turbid ebb and flow  
Of human misery.
  - Why should the sound of the sea remind Sophocles of "the ebb and flow of human misery"? (4)
6. The Sea of Faith  
Was once, too, at the full, and round earth's shore  
Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furl'd.
  - Why would watching the sea at night remind the author of religion? (4)
  - Does the poet view religion in a positive or in a negative light? Explain. (4)
7. There is a major contrast between the TONE of Stanza 1 and that of Stanza 4. Explain. (4)
8. Why, in your mind, does the writer comment, "Ah, love let us be true to one another!"? (4)
9. And we are here as on a darkling plain  
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,  
Where ignorant armies clash by night.
  - What is the poet's attitude towards warfare? How do you know this? (4)
  - Explain the connotation behind the writer's claim that we are here on a "darkling plain"? (4)

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