
Read the first X pages and consider these questions in 2s or 3s:

1. What important fact is the author discussing in the first sentence?
2. What does: *a thought and a euphemism that could only proceed from someone who did not know Phyllis* tell us about the narrator's wife?
3. How does the main idea in the second paragraph contrast with the first?
4. Explain: *the crooner yearning for somebody*. (You may need to look up *crooner* & *yearning*).
5. Comment on the description of the sea.
6. What does this tell the reader: *We gazed out silently at the infinity of sea and sky. Behind us the crooner went on baying?*
7. What two things did the narrator think about the red spot at first sight?
8. How did he account for the spot appearing to get bigger?
9. When did they realize that the spot was not Mars?
10. What was the narrator's second explanation for the phenomenon?
11. What does the paragraph that starts: *We've both of us been asked many times* tell us about the narrators character?
12. What does the next paragraph tell us: *Others besides... ?*
13. Why was it impossible to guess the size of the red spots?
14. Where did the objects land in relation to the ship?
15. Why did the ship turn back to where the objects had landed?

Answers: The Kraken Wakes 1

1. Witness statements are notoriously unreliable as each person forms their own impression of a situation.
2. That she knows her own mind; that she is intelligent; that she is not easily influenced or manipulated, perhaps even stubborn.
3. It establishes facts, in contrast to the point that eye witnesses do not always relate the facts.
4. The song expresses a sadness and longing for love.
5. The sea is likened to a land feature (plain) and silken implies elegance and calm.
Simile: like, as...as
6. The contrast between the couple and their admiration of the sea's majesty and the ridiculous singer and the pointless song shows that they are interested in nature, the universe perhaps, and find the song annoying and tasteless.
7. That Mars was unusually bright, but that may have been because the stars also looked bright as they were near the tropics.
8. An optical illusion due to staring at it.
9. When a second and then a third one appeared.
10. Might be aircraft.
11. That he is quite modest and reasonable about the events.
12. It reinforces the point at the start of the chapter, by relating that only a comparatively small number of witnesses saw entirely different things.
13. They did not know how far away they were and there was nothing known to compare them with (no scale).
14. Behind the ship (in its wake).
15. In case there were survivors.