

Grace Darling

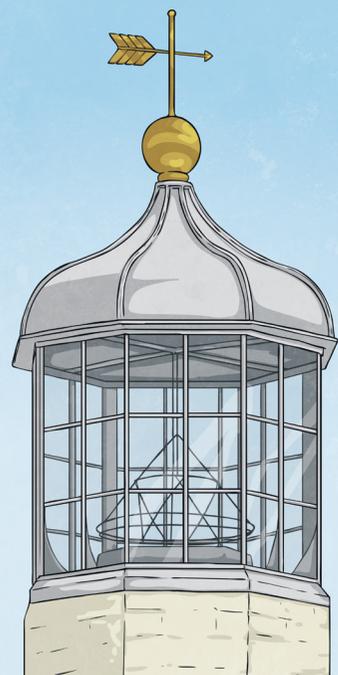
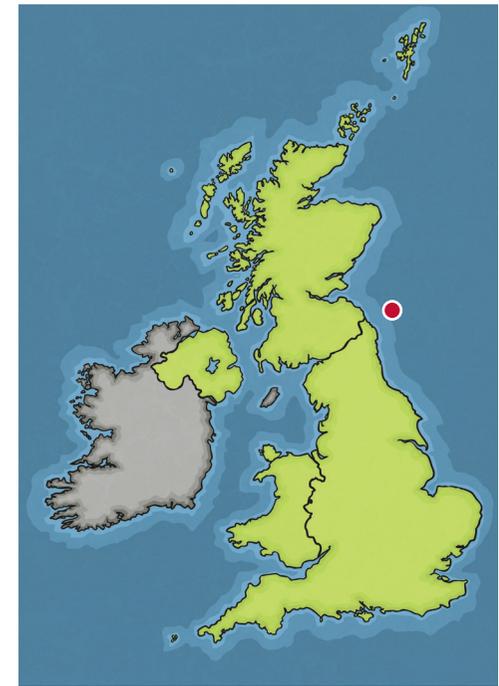
Story Cards



Grace Darling was born in 1815 in Northumberland.

She was the daughter of Thomasin and William Darling, a lighthouse keeper.

Grace and her family lived in a lighthouse on Longstone, one of the Farne Islands.



William's job was to light the lantern at the top of the lighthouse every night.

Sailors at sea would use the light to steer their ships clear of the treacherous rocks.

Grace learned to 'read the sea like a book.' She was able to predict when a storm was coming. One night in September 1838, she sat with her family, listening to a fierce storm gathering strength outside. Grace and her parents decided to take it in turns to keep watch throughout the night.



At 5am, Grace was about to finish her shift, when she spotted a ship that had crashed onto the rocks and split into two.

Grace could see people in the water, struggling to stay afloat in the huge waves and she ran to get her father.



The SS Forfarshire had crashed and its survivors were in the sea. Grace and her father had to act quickly. With no thought for their own safety, they rowed out to the wreck to see if they could help. In their tiny boat, Grace and her father rowed through the raging sea with its mountainous waves.



As Grace's father pulled the survivors to safety, Grace had to use all her strength to keep the boat steady and away from the rocks. They rescued nine people in total. Many others had already drowned.



Once back at the lighthouse, the survivors were given warm blankets and hot soup. They were well looked after by Grace and her parents and spent several days recovering from their ordeal, before they returned to their own homes.



The story of the girl who risked her life to save others, spread quickly.

Reporters wrote newspaper articles about the rescue and Grace's portrait was painted by artists.

She was sent letters and gifts from all over the world.



Grace Darling

1. "Grace learned to 'read the sea like a book.'" Explain what this means.

2. "Grace and her father had to act quickly." Explain why.

3. "Grace and her father rowed through the raging sea with its mountainous waves." What does this description tell us about the storm, sea and waves?

4. How do we know Grace's story was told outside of England?

Grace Darling: **Answers**

1. "Grace learned to 'read the sea like a book.'" Explain what this means.

It means that Grace could tell what the sea was going to do by looking at it. She could tell if it was going to be stormy or calm.

2. "Grace and her father had to act quickly." Explain why.

The SS Forfarshire had already crashed on the rocks and split in two. Many people were in the water in middle of a storm and trying to stay afloat. They had to reach them quickly before they drowned.

3. "Grace and her father rowed through the raging sea with its mountainous waves." What does this description tell us about the storm, sea and waves?

Raging tells us this is not just a bad storm. Rage is when someone is very angry. It is like the sea is very angry. Mountains are very large and strong and can be difficult to climb. It means the waves are huge and it is difficult to row through them.

4. How do we know Grace's story was told outside of England?

She received letters and gifts from all over the world.