



Of Waves And Men

Pre-reading Activities

1. What associations does the title of the story bring to you?
2. What tone/mood/narrative voice/genre do you expect, based just on the title?
3. What connotations does the word **wave** have for you? Try to come up with as many as you can.

Reading Activities

1. Read the story.
2. Identify the words that you don't understand – try to guess their meaning.
3. Count the number of words!
4. What tools of language are used to convey the association with **water**?
5. Try to role-play the different types of wave creatures described here.
6. What other meanings, other than the literal fantasy one, can you identify in the story?
7. Now read the story again, this time aloud. Try to express the wave/water pattern as best as you can.

Post-reading Activities

1. Can you come up with other examples of a fight between mankind and the elements? How could these be expressed in a fantasy setting?
2. Try to create another type of a wave creature, different from the ones described in the story. Describe it in twenty words. Then reduce the number to fifteen, then eight and, finally, three words.

Home Activity

1. Try to write a 101-word story as a home assignment!



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by Tom Hadrava

There are snappers and crushers, there are sneaky ones and standing masses of water-tentacles.

The fighters attack them with swords and long pikes, their skin glistening with sweat and salt-water. They get soaked, toppled over and beaten. Sometimes they charge and are engulfed by the greyish waters. Still they push the sea back. Every day, the villages along the coastline send their best men. Every inch of sandy land is worth fighting for.

With dawn, the waves are tame and keep their heads bowed. The water recedes. It leaves behind drying sand and white stones shaped as skulls.