

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Handout 25B: “The Tide Rises, The Tide Falls”

**Directions:** Listen to the poem, read what Sal says about it on pages 169–170, and answer the questions together with your group. Cite from the text in some of your responses.

1. What mood does this poem have? How does hearing the poem add to the mood? What else do you notice about how the poem sounds?

This poem has a sad and sort of sleepy mood to it. The voice of the narrator seems to go up and down, you can almost hear the tide rising and falling. The poem rhymes at the end of the lines and stanzas. It also has rhythm.

2. What does Sal say about this poem? How does she say the poem makes her and Phoebe feel?

Sal says the poem upsets her and Phoebe. The poem is probably making them think that something bad has happened to Phoebe's Mom. Sal is probably thinking about her own Mom. They both just want Phoebe's Mom to return.



3. How does Sal summarize the poem? Cite from the text in your response. What do she and Phoebe think happens to the traveler?

Sal says, "a traveler is hurrying toward a town, and it is getting darker..." Sal quotes the last part of the poem that says the traveler never returns to the shore.

Phoebe is still thinking about murder, and both girls say the sea reached out with "soft, white hands" and killed the traveler.

4. Why do you think the author includes this poem? How is the poem connected to the themes in this story?

The poem has a sad and lost feeling to it. It connects to the theme because the girls are both going through something sorrowful.

5. What do you think Ben means by "maybe dying could be normal and terrible"? (173) How does this connect back to the Blackfoot myth about Napi?

I think he means that because people die all the time, it is normal. But that doesn't make it any easier when it happens to someone you love so it is also terrible. In the Blackfoot myth, when the stone sinks Napi decides that people will die. People are mortal, it is part of life.