

# ENGLISH

## MERMAIDS' LAGOON ANSWERS

**1. Can you explain the term 'on the contrary'?**

It means 'on the other hand' or 'quite the opposite'.

**2. How does Wendy feel about the mermaids? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.**

Wendy feels conflicted about the mermaids. On the one hand, she is eager to know what they get up to when the children aren't at the lagoon and she enjoys watching them play with bubbles. However, on the other hand, they irritate her and she is jealous of their relationship with Peter.

**3. Do you think that the choice of descriptive language in chapter 2 gives the reader a clue about what will happen next in the story? Why?**

We are told that the next part of the story details a particular evening at the lagoon. The use of the phrase 'the lagoon is dangerous for mortals' at the turn of the moon suggests that something scary might be on the horizon.

**4. Explain, using evidence from the text, why some readers may think that Wendy is jealous of the mermaids.**

**5. Identify 3 things that Wendy disliked about the mermaids**

- a) The way they combed their hair
- b) How they deliberately splashed her with their tails when she got too close
- c) Their close relationship with Peter

**6. What is the role of this paragraph? Do you think that it deals with this effectively?**

The paragraph clearly tells us that there is a conflicted relationship between Wendy and the mermaids. She respects and loathes them in equal parts, yet is intrigued by their actions in the lagoon. The paragraph is effective in telling us that relationships are not always straightforward and that they can be complicated and confusing.