**Why the Whales Came: Answer Sheet**

**Comprehension Section**

1. **The setting for this part of the story was in the sea around the coast of the Scilly Isles.**

You could also have said that the setting was near Scilly Rock or near to Gweal.

1. **There are two characters in the story, the narrator and Daniel.**

You could have said that there were two characters in the story

1. **Daniel said that they could find their way home if they kept Scilly Rock astern – behind them. If they could hear the sound of the sea hitting the rock behind, they would be travelling in the right direction. They could then keep close to the coastline (hug the coast) and they would reach home.**
2. **The characters huddled closely together and they wrapped the (damp) jib sail around themselves in order to keep warm.**
3. **The narrator was feeling really cold, exhausted and despairing at the end of the story.**

This is partly inferred in the last paragraph. If you just want to give up and sleep, it generally means that you are in despair – in this case, of ever finding the way home.

**Looking at Language Section**

1. ‘Dead ahead’ means straight ahead or straight in front of you.
2. ‘Hug the coast’ means to keep very close to the shoreline, to stay close to the shore.
3. ‘Off course’ means that you have come away from your intended route; you have changed direction by mistake.
4. ‘Wishful thinking’ means that whatever you had hoped for hasn’t come true or that it was unlikely to come true in the first place.
5. Astern: behind
6. Seething: in this context it means that the water/sea around the rock was noisy; it could be heard hitting against the rock.
7. Swell: in the context of the sea, it means that there are waves lifting a boat up. In this story there was no ‘swell’ so the sea was calm.
8. Loomed: appeared
9. Obscure: in this context it means, to block out; the fog seemed to block out the sound of the sea.
10. Impenetrable: in this context it means that you can’t pass through it. The night was so dark and foggy that it appeared as though they couldn’t pass through it.
11. Muted: very quiet, soft. Usually the sea hitting against rocks or cliffs is very noisy – however because of the darkness, fog and their distance from the shore, the sound of the sea against the cliffs was unusually quiet or soft.
12. Distorted: wrong, false, not real. In this context everything seems wrong, out of place.