

The lighthouse children

Part 1

By the edge of the sea, a lighthouse stands all alone. An old couple lives there. Their names are Sam and Rose. At night they shine a beam of light to guide the ships that pass.

Sam and Rose don't have any children, but they are never lonely. They have seagulls. A hundred seagulls fly in every day to look for food and a place to land. Sam and Rose named each seagull.

"Eat this, Ernie and Bernie," says Sam.

"It's good for you, Dora and Cora," says Rose.

They make sure that the seagulls never go hungry.

The seagulls love the old couple and are glad to pose for them. So Rose paints pictures and Sam takes photos of their lighthouse children.

But seagulls can't stay in one place very long. Soon they spread their wings and fly away.

"Don't worry, Rose. Our seagulls will come back," says Sam.

"I know, we will see them tomorrow," answers Rose.

They shine the beam of light across the water to make sure that it is safe for ships to pass at night when it is very dark, and they go to sleep. But one night there is a terrible storm. The wind blows hard and giant waves crash down on the lighthouse.

In the morning Sam and Rose look over the damage. There are holes in the walls and the roof is almost gone. "We can't fix all this," says Sam. "I guess it's time for us to move on," says Rose.

True or False?

1. The old couple lives on the coast.
2. They feel lonely.
3. Their lighthouse children visit them every day.
4. Rose likes taking photos of the seagulls.
5. The couple leaves the lighthouse because it is destroyed by a storm

Part 2

They pack their things and move away. They find a plain house FAR from the edge of the sea. There are green hills around and tall trees, and neighbors who come to visit. There are parties and cookouts. The old couple is never lonely but they miss their seagulls.

"We need our birds," says Sam. "I wish they would visit us, but they are so far away. How can they find us?"

"I know what we can do," answers Rose. "We can tell our birds where we are!"

So the old couple shines a beam of light from their house. They wait and wait several days. Suddenly, one evening the sound of birds is heard in the sky. Everybody runs to look.

"Bill, Jill, Bonnie, Connie, Ann and Fran! We are so glad you find us," shouts Sam.

"Do you miss us, Jack, Mack, Lenny, Henny, Luke and Duke?" asks Rose.

They feed their lighthouse children. The neighbors feed them too. But seagulls can't stay in one place very long. Soon they spread their wings and fly away.

"Will the seagulls come back?" ask the neighbors.

"Of course they are going to come back!" exclaims Sam.

"They are our lighthouse children," adds Rose.

So the old couple keeps the light shining from their house, just to make sure that their birds come back.

Complete with one word from the text.

Sam and Rose move out from the destroyed _____. They buy a new house, but they aren't _____ there because they _____ their birds. So, _____ has an idea! They shine a beam of _____ from their house so that the _____ can find them. The plan is a success!

The old _____ and their neighbors enjoy the birds' visit and they also _____ the animals. Sam and Rose are sure that their lighthouse _____ will come back again, but just in case they keep the light shining.