**The Sea**

They wash their hands in it.

The salt turns to soap

In their hands. Wearing it

At their wrists, they make bracelets

Of it; it runs in beads

On their jackets. A child’s

Plaything? It has hard whips

That it cracks, and knuckles

To pummel you. It scrubs

And scours; it chews rocks

To sand; its embraces

Leave you without breath. Mostly

It is a stomach, where bones,

Wrecks, continents are digested

Author: R S Thomas

1. What is it in line 13?
2. In lines 6 and 7, the poet asks a question, ‘A child’s plaything?” In your own words, explain the poet’s answer to this question.
3. Explain the meaning of the last two lines of the poem.

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