

Billy Budd by Herman Melville

- 1 *Student's own answer.*
Student's guesses would be correct if they included words like the following:
 (a) bad, boring, horrible
 (b) noisy, loud, dangerous, frightening, terrible
 (c) hard, long, difficult, dangerous
 (d) poor, uncomfortable, noisy, smelly, wet
 (e) low, poor, bad.
- 2 *Student's own answers.*
- 3 *Students could mention any of the following things about Billy. Description:* young, handsome, strong, bright blue eyes. *Job:* foretopman, pulls ropes and moves sails, watches for enemy ships, works near the deck and high on the ship's foremast. *Family:* Billy does not know his family. A good man in Bristol found the baby Billy. He was in a basket outside the man's house. He was dressed in silk clothes. The man took care of Billy and gave him his name. *Behaviour:* happy, cheerful, friendly. Billy works hard. Sometimes he becomes angry. Then he stutters.
- 4 Powerful, dangerous, clever, wicked.
- 5 Billy is a good person. Claggart hates good people. He hates Billy's goodness.
- 6 *Student's own answer.*
- 7 *Student's own answer. Students should mention the following:* Vere does not believe Claggart's lies. He knows about Billy's goodness. But he has to obey the King's law. *Students could ask these questions:* Does Vere ask Billy to understand his problem? Does he ask Billy to forgive him? Does Billy forgive the captain?
- 8 *Student's own answer. Here are some samples:*

