

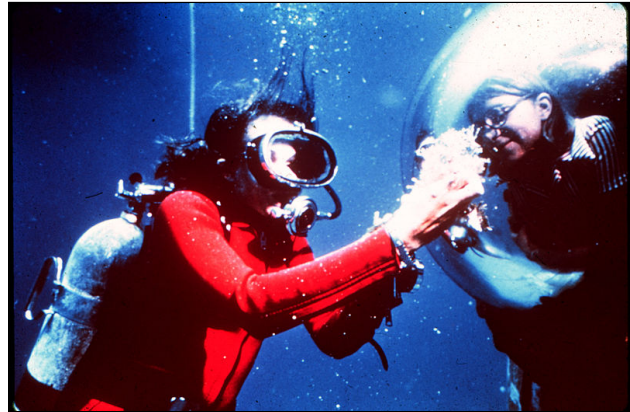
Name: _____ Class: _____

Sylvia Earle: Deep Ocean Explorer

By Bobbi Katz
2007

Bobbi Katz (born 1933) is an accomplished poet who specializes in children's literature. In this poem, a speaker describes a famous ocean explorer, Sylvia Earle. As you read, take notes on what Sylvia Earle likes to explore.

[1] Her eyes might gaze
 toward
 distant
 stars,
 [5] but not for her the lure¹ of Mars.
 She's challenged by a different place,
 just as unknown as outer space.
 Not for her the stratosphere²
 but a life-filled, liquid atmosphere—
 [10] where she can be... a pioneer!³
 Down,
 down,
 down
 in
 [15] the depths of the sea
 where
 no human
 had gone before.
 Down,
 [20] down
 down
 to
 the deepest deep—
 exploring
 [25] the ocean floor.



"Dr. Sylvia Earle displays samples to aquanaut inside TEKTITE. Appears in National Geographic August 1971" by OAR/National Undersea Research Program (NURP) is in the public domain.

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1. **Lure (noun):** something that tempts or is used to tempt a person or animal to do something
2. a region of the upper atmosphere
3. **Pioneer (noun):** a person who is among the first to explore a new area

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which statement best expresses the theme of the poem?
 - A. Exploration can be exciting, but it is also frightening.
 - B. It is better to avoid exploring the unknown, because it can be dangerous.
 - C. Unfamiliar places like space or the ocean will remain mysterious, no matter how much we explore them.
 - D. Following your interests can lead you on a path to great discoveries.

2. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "Her eyes might gaze / toward / distant / stars" (Lines 1-4)
 - B. "Just as unknown as outer space. / Not for her the stratosphere" (Lines 7-8)
 - C. "but a life-filled, liquid atmosphere— / where she can be... a pioneer!" (Lines 9-10)
 - D. "down / to / the deepest deep—" (Lines 21-23)

3. Why does the poet compare outer space to the ocean floor?
 - A. to show why the ocean floor is uninteresting to Sylvia Earle compared to space
 - B. to show that the ocean is just as unexplored as space, but is more interesting to Sylvia Earle
 - C. to show that exploring space seems more dangerous to Sylvia Earle than exploring the ocean floor
 - D. to show that Sylvia Earle is just as excited by the idea of exploring space as she is about exploring the ocean

4. PART B: Which quote from the poem best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "Her eyes might gaze / toward / distant / stars" (Lines 1-4)
 - B. "She's challenged by a different place, / just as unknown as outer space" (Lines 6-7)
 - C. "where / no human / had gone before." (Lines 16-18)
 - D. "the deepest deep— / exploring" (Lines 23-24)

5. How does the poem's physical form help develop its theme?
