

Grace Darling

Who Was Grace Darling?

- Grace Darling was the daughter of a lighthouse keeper.
- She lived on the Farne Islands.
- She lived in a lighthouse.

Why Is She Remembered?

On 7th September 1838, there was very heavy rain. A boat crashed into the rocks. Grace and her father rowed a boat out to those who were stuck in the water. Her father saved the men whilst Grace stayed on the boat. Grace and her father were awarded a silver medal.



Interesting Fact!

They rescued nine people!

The Shipwreck of 1838



Questions

1. Where did Grace live? Tick one.

Farne Islands

Jersey

France

2. Why did the boat crash? Tick one.

It was cold.

It was snowing.

It was raining.

3. How many people did they rescue? Tick one.

nine

seven

five

4. Her father stayed on the boat. Tick one.

true

false

5. What did Grace and her father use to rescue people? Tick one.

a lighthouse

a boat

an aeroplane

Answers

1. Where did Grace live? Tick one.

✓ **Farne Islands**

Jersey

France

2. Why did the boat crash? Tick one.

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a lighthouse

✓ **a boat**

an aeroplane

Grace Darling

Who Was Grace Darling?

Grace Darling was the daughter of a lighthouse keeper. She was born in Northumberland but moved to the Farne Islands when she was very small. On the island, she lived with her family in a lighthouse. In the lighthouse, there lived Grace, her mother, her father, four brothers and four sisters.



Interesting Fact!

She was offered marriage proposals after the event.

Why Is She Remembered?

On 7th September 1838, in the middle of the night, there was a storm. Grace spotted a shipwreck from the window of the lighthouse and alerted her father. The boat had crashed into a collection of rocks. Together, they rowed out in search for any survivors. They returned to the lighthouse and then her father went on one last journey, returning with a further four people. Her bravery was recognised by many and she was given money, letters and gifts. Grace and her father were also awarded the Silver Medal for bravery by the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution).



The Shipwreck of 1838



Grace and her father rowing through the storm towards the boat which had crashed into rocks.

Questions

1. Where was Grace Darling born?

Farne Islands

Northumberland

Scotland

2. Find and copy one word which means **told**.

3. Tick two things Grace received after the event.

money

clothes

letters

4. Complete the missing word in the following sentence.

The boat crashed into a _____ of rocks.

5. Grace was the only one to receive a silver medal.

true

false

Answers

1. Where was Grace Darling born?

Farne Islands

✓ **Northumberland**

Scotland

2. Find and copy one word which means **told**.
alerted

3. Tick two things Grace received after the event.

✓ **money**

clothes

✓ **letters**

4. Complete the missing word in the following sentence.

The boat crashed into a **collection** of rocks.

5. Grace was the only one to receive a silver medal.

true

✓ **false**

Grace Darling

Who Was Grace Darling?

Grace Darling was born in Bamburgh, Northumberland. She was born to William and Thomasin Darling and she was the seventh of nine children. When she was only a few weeks old, her family moved to one of the Farne Islands: Brownsman Island. Here, her father was a lighthouse keeper and they resided in a small cottage next to



the lighthouse. After a short while, in search of better conditions, the family moved to another of the Farne Islands; Longstone Island. This time they inhabited a new lighthouse. Despite having better living conditions, the island was limited with resources so William would row back to Brownsman Island to stock up. Their lighthouse consisted of a large room at the bottom with a spiral staircase leading to the bedrooms.

Interesting Fact!

The Forefareshire had been carrying 62 people.

Why Is She Remembered?

In the early hours of 7th September, there was a violent storm.

When looking out of a window, Grace spotted a shipwreck on Big Harcar, which was a nearby rocky island. The ship, named Forfarshire, was upon the rocks and had broken in half because the lighthouse on the island was ineffective. Feeling that the sea was too rough for the lifeboat, Grace and her father used a four-man rowing boat to row for one mile to search for any survivors.

Grace stayed on board, keeping the boat steady while her father rescued four men and the lone surviving woman.

Grace stayed at the lighthouse with the survivors, while her father went back to rescue four more people. Grace and her father were commended with a silver medal and she was branded a heroine. She received many gifts, including £50 from Queen Victoria.

The Shipwreck of 1838

In Britain, the first lighthouse was built at the time when stronger and more weatherproof lighthouses were being invented. The Eddystone rocks were a shipwreck hazard for those sailing through the English Channel and the first lighthouse was an octagonal wooden structure. It was the first tower to be exposed to open sea. It has been rebuilt three times.



Grace and her father rowing a coble boat through the storm towards survivors of the shipwreck. The ship had crashed into rocks because of bad weather and had split in two almost immediately.

Remembering Grace Darling



After Grace's death, she was buried in her hometown. A large cenotaph reminds people of Grace and celebrates her life. Additionally, a monument was placed on the Great Farne Island. A lifeboat was named after her and presented to Holy Island. A museum was also opened in Bamburgh where people can remember her by looking at the boat that was used to rescue the people on that tragic night.

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Questions

1. What was the name of Grace Darling's mother?

2. Why did the family move out of the cottage?

3. **There was a violent storm.** In this sentence, what is the meaning of the word **violent**?

4. Only one woman survived the shipwreck.

How do you know?

true

false

5. How do you know the lighthouse was not effective?

6. In your opinion, why do you think there is a bigger memorial to Grace in the place where she was born than where the event took place?

Answers

1. What was the name of Grace Darling's mother?

Grace Darling's mother was called Thomasin.

2. Why did the family move out of the cottage?

The family moved out in search of better conditions.

3. **There was a violent storm.** In this sentence, what is the meaning of the word **violent**?

Answers may vary. The word violent in this sentence means powerful or something that causes a lot of damage.

4. Only one woman survived the shipwreck.

How do you know?

✓ true

false

I know only one woman survived because the text refers to the lone woman survivor.

5. How do you know the lighthouse was not effective?

The lighthouse was not effective because it did not warn the boat away from the rocks.

6. In your opinion, why do you think there is a bigger memorial to Grace in the place where she was born than where the event took place?

Answers will vary. They may refer to the fact that Bamburgh is on the mainland and more people are able to visit it.