

LO: Shared reading.

The Iron man by Ted Hughes

1 The Coming of the Iron Man

The Iron Man came to the top of the cliff. How far had he walked? Nobody knows. Where did he come from? Nobody knows. How was he made? Nobody knows.

Taller than a house, the Iron Man stood at the top of the cliff, on the very brink, in the darkness.

The wind sang through his iron fingers. His great iron head, shaped like a dustbin but as big as a bedroom, slowly turned to the right, slowly turned to the left. His iron ears turned, this way, that way. He was hearing the sea. His eyes, like headlamps, glowed white, then red, then infrared, searching the sea. Never before had the Iron Man seen the sea.

He swayed in the strong wind that pressed against his back. He swayed forward, on the brink of the high cliff.

And his right foot, his enormous iron right foot, lifted - up, out into space, and the Iron Man stepped forward, off the cliff, into nothingness.

CRRRAAAASSSSSH!

Down the cliff the Iron Man came toppling, head over heels.

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

From rock to rock, snag to snag, tumbling slowly. And as he crashed and crashed and crashed. His iron legs fell off. His iron arms broke off, and the hands broke off the arms. His great iron ears fell off and his eyes fell out. His great iron head fell off. All the separate pieces tumbled, scattered, crashing, bumping, clanging, down on to the rocky beach far below.

A few rocks tumbled with him.

Then

Silence.

Questions:

- What is the Iron Man? Where has he come from? How far has he walked?
- Find and copy the phrases that help us imagine how big the Iron Man is.
- WORD WALL! Describe what 'on the brink' could mean?
- CRASH is an example of onomatopoeia. Can you think of any other loud words which show noises?
- What does the following sentence mean? 'The wind sang through his iron fingers.'
- Can you draw a picture of the Iron Man based on what you have read?

brink



The edge of a steep place.

"on the *brink* of the high cliff"

Iron Man Chapter 1

