**SAILING OUT TO SPACE**

**Summary**

The speaker in the poem is a child who dreams of sailing out to space on a yacht of stars. The sail of the yacht will be made of clouds, and the mast would be made of spider webs. He imagines the planets that he might see and how he would feel. He would happily watch the Earth, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, and even asteroids as they move past him.

**Understanding the Text**

1. **Choose the correct option:**
   1. **The speaker wants to sail \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**  
      a. to Jupiter in a spaceship  
      b. to the sea in a boat  
      **c. on a yacht of stars**  
      d. in a yacht full of spider webs
   2. **The sail of the yacht would be made of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**  
      **a. fluffy clouds**  
      b. spider webs  
      c. port holes  
      d. wood
   3. **The speaker would like to sail around \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**  
      a. the Earth  
      **b. the rings of Saturn**  
      c. the rings of the yacht  
      d. the rings of Jupiter
   4. **While sailing, the speaker would like to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**  
      **a. gaze at a star**  
      b. sit on a star  
      c. catch a star  
      d. take a picture of the stars
2. **Answer these questions:** 
   1. **What would the speaker like to travel in?**

**Ans**: The speaker would like to travel in a yacht made of stars.

* 1. **What kind of yacht does the speaker describe?**

**Ans**: The yacht is made of stars, with port holes along the sides. The mast is made of spider webs and the sail is made of fluffy clouds.

* 1. **What things would the speaker see in space?**

**Ans**: The speaker says that he would see the Earth, go around the rings of Saturn, watch the red storm of Jupiter and see it moons, and then go through a swarm of asteroids.

* 1. **Which storm does the speaker mention?**

**Ans**: The speaker mentions the storms on the surface of Jupiter, specifically the big red storm, which are formed by the interaction of gases.

* 1. **To which planet do the moons belong?**

**Ans**: The moons belong to Jupiter.

1. **Answer these questions with reference to the context:**
   1. With mast made strong with spider webs,  
      And sail of fluffy cloud,

**a. The speaker’s dream yacht is being spoken about.  
b. The yacht is required for the speaker to go to space.  
c. The speaker goes to space in the yacht.**

**Ans**:

**a.** The speaker’s dream yacht is being spoken about.  
**b.** The yacht is required for the speaker to go to space.  
**c.** The speaker goes to space in the yacht.

* 1. I’d watch the Earth go sweeping past,  
     As out to space I ploughed.  
     **a. When would the speaker watch the Earth go sweeping past?  
     b. What would the speaker be travelling in?  
     c. Where would the speaker be going?**

**Ans**:

**a.** The speaker would see the Earth go sweeping past while ploughing through space.  
**b.** The speaker would be travelling in a yacht of stars.  
**c.** The speaker would be going to space.

* 1. And onwards passing Jupiter,  
     To watch the big, red storm.  
     **a. From where would the speaker be moving onwards?  
     b. Which ‘big red storm’ is referred to in these lines?  
     c. From where would the speaker watch the storm?  
     d. Besides Jupiter, what else would the speaker see?**

**Ans**:

**a.** The speaker would be moving onwards from Saturn.  
**b.** The big storm on the surface of Jupiter is being referred to in the line.  
**c.** He would watch the storm while passing Jupiter.  
**d.** Besides Jupiter, the speaker would see its moons, Saturn and the Earth, as well as asteroids and stars.

1. **Think and answer:** 
   1. **What do you think is the speaker’s attitude towards space? Give reasons for your answer.**

**Ans**: The speaker seems to love space. He enjoys seeing all the planets and other heavenly bodies. He had clearly read a lot about the planets, as is evident from the fact that he has a lot of information regarding the rings of Saturn and the big red storm of Jupiter as well as its moon and asteroid belts. He is adventurous and imaginative.