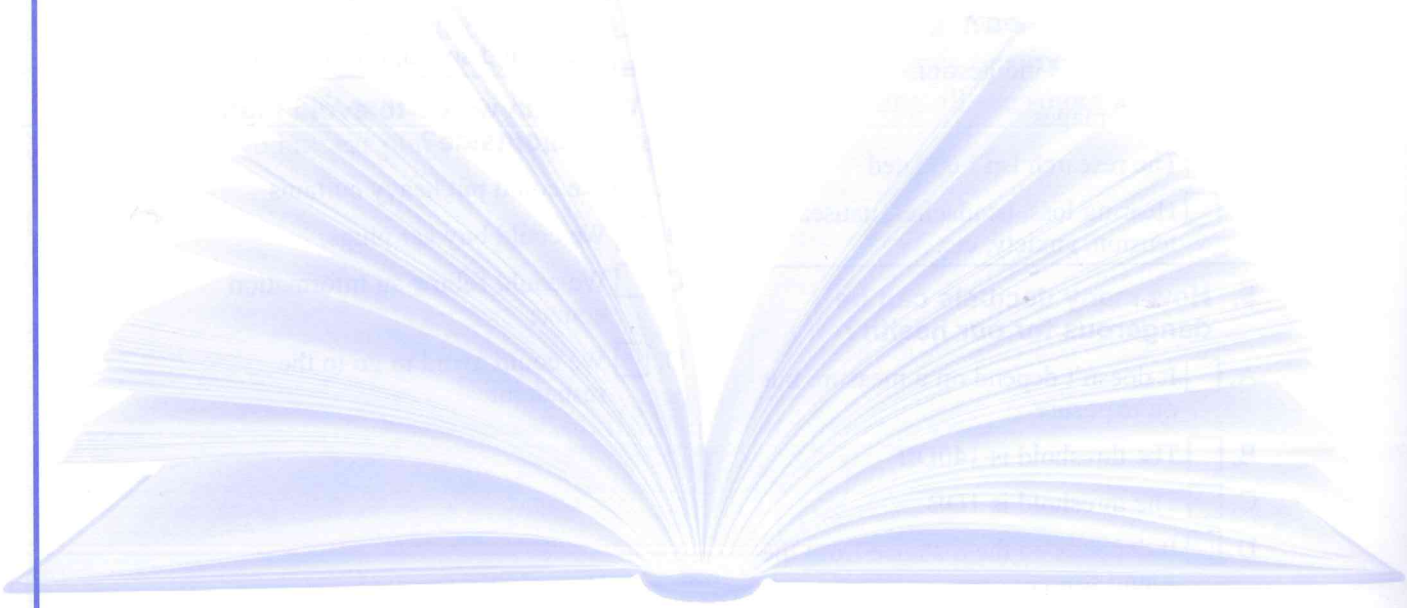
Reading

Prova 4

Leggi il testo e rispondi alle domande a fronte

The story of the siren

The siren is a mythological character which has attracted the attention of writers since the beginning of the literary background. Mark didn't think the figure in question had ever existed. There is a certain amount of matters we imagine and which take part to our fancy kingdom. It could depend upon our natural constitution because mankind consists of soul and body, that's reality and what goes beyond it. But the possibility of other forms of life, of human or almost human beings, was out of question for him.

One day a friend named Paul proposed him an adventure: sailing towards the Arctic Ocean to find out if the extreme point of the earth, North Pole, was the last border beyond which, he thought, there could be emptiness. Mark was very enthusiastic for the proposal and decided to accept. They left from Stonehaven, in the South-West of Scotland, and began their voyage. Time went on, day after day, till one morning there was an accident: they had a shipwreck. They suddenly were surrounded by terrible waves, which seemed high mountains of cold, almost freezing water. They tried to survive, swimming against the wild force of the sea. When everything seemed lost a figure, half woman and half fish, appeared from the water. She had the upper part of the body similar to a human being and the lower one similar to fish with a marvellous long tail. She had perceived the risk of death for both of them. She came and, with other similar figures, took Paul and Mark on their back and led them to the seaside. Even if Mark couldn't believe to his eyes he had to admit their existence.