

Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Abbie Burgess, Lighthouse Keeper



Matinicus Rock Light Station Photo by HABS, Library of Congress

- 1 Abbie Burgess was only 14 years old when her father became keeper of the lighthouse on Matinicus Rock. The light was on a remote island, miles off the coast of Maine. It was a big change for Abbie, her three sisters, one brother, and her sick mother. They had to move from the town of Rockland to the lonely island. But Abbie soon found that she could make herself useful by helping her father take care of the lighthouse. This amazing young girl ended up having more responsibility and adventure than most people. It was a time when most women were expected to stay at home and out of harm's way. But Abbie Burgess became a lighthouse keeper and a heroine.
- 2 When the Burgess family moved to Matinicus Rock in 1853, lighthouses were very important. The many ships sailing up and down the nation's coasts did not have radios or telephones. Sea captains looked to the shining lights on the coast to figure out where they were, and where dangerous rocks were. Lighthouse keepers kept the lamps burning and the sailors safe.
- 3 The lighthouse fascinated Abbie. She spent many hours reading the old lighthouse keepers' logs. They told about storms and ships and daring rescues. Her brother Benjy and her father often went fishing, so Abbie started lending a helping hand. She climbed the long stairs to the top of the lighthouse. She kept the lamp at the top of the lighthouse full of oil to burn. She polished the glass so sailors could see the light clearly.
- 4 When Abbie was 17, her father had to sail to the mainland to get food and supplies. Abbie often ran the lighthouse while he was away. But just days after he left, a huge storm blew up. The storm raged for four whole weeks. Because of the rough weather, Abbie's father couldn't make it back to the island. Abbie had to keep the lighthouse shining all by herself. Benjy was away on a fishing trip, so Abbie also took care of her mother and her three younger sisters. She even waded out in the middle of the storm and rescued the family's pet chickens. Her bravery probably saved the lives of many sailors.



- 5 Again in 1857, a huge storm began while Abbie’s father had left her in charge. The family had very little food, so Benjy set out for the mainland. But the storm rose again, and neither of the Burgess men returned for 21 days. Abbie feared they had drowned, but she still did her duty, taking care of her family and the lighthouse. When her father and brother were finally able to return, they found Abbie exhausted. But the lighthouse light was still shining.
- 6 When Abbie’s father finally retired as lighthouse keeper of Matinicus Rock, Abbie stayed to help the new lighthouse keeper. She married his son, and the couple then moved to keep the Whitehead Lighthouse near Spruce Head, Maine.
- 7 Abbie spent her whole life keeping lighthouses. She was brave and resourceful. In 1997, the United States Coast Guard launched a ship they named the *Abbie Burgess*. It is a memorial to a woman who spent her whole life making the sea a safer place to sail.

43 In paragraph 3, the word logs means —

- A postcards
- B pieces of wood
- C novels
- D journals

44 This passage tells about Abbie’s life in order of —

- F what happened first to what happened last
- G what happened last to what happened first
- H what was most important to least important
- J what was least important to most important

45 Lighthouse keeper was an unusual job for a woman in the 1850s because —

- A more women were sailors than lighthouse keepers
- B it was not considered an important job
- C women were expected to go to college instead
- D women were expected to stay safe at home

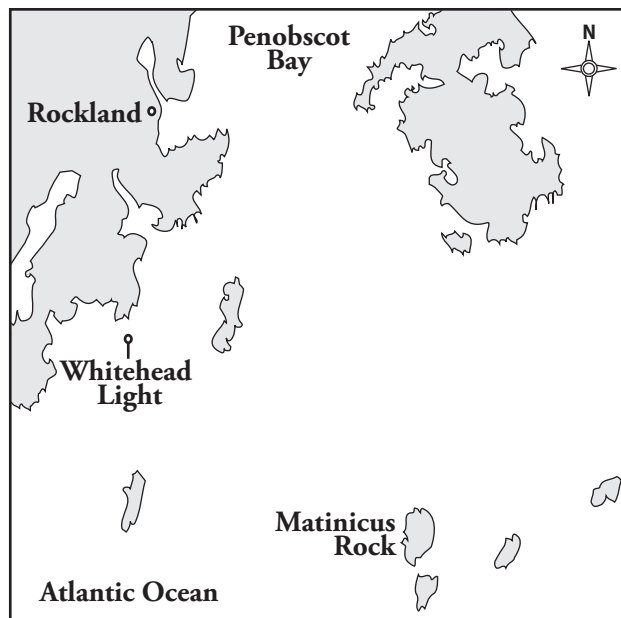
46 The idea that Abbie Burgess was a heroine can be supported by which detail from the story?

- F Lighthouses were more important in 1853 than they are now.
- G Matinicus Rock is a small, lonely island.
- H Abbie kept the light burning by herself during a huge storm.
- J Abbie took care of lighthouses for most of her life.

47 The Coast Guard named a ship after Abbie Burgess because —

- A her courage made sailors safer
- B they always name ships after women
- C she was the youngest lighthouse keeper of all time
- D 1997 was the 100th anniversary of her arrival at Matinicus Rock

Look at the map below and answer the following question.



48 According to the passage and the map, in what direction did Abbie's family travel when they moved from Rockland to Matinicus Rock?

- F Northwest
- G Northeast
- H Southwest
- J Southeast



The chart below tells you information about the lighthouses at Matinicus Rock and Whitehead. Use it and the article to answer the next two questions.

	Matinicus Rock Lighthouse	Whitehead Lighthouse
Year Built	1827	1807
Year Abbie Moved There		1875
Made of	Granite	Granite and asphalt
Height (feet)	48	41
Working Today?	Yes	Yes

49 How are the lighthouses at Matinicus Rock and Whitehead different?

- A Matinicus is older than Whitehead.
- B They are made of totally different materials.
- C Matinicus is taller than Whitehead.
- D Matinicus is still in use and Whitehead is not.

50 In the second column, there is no date given for "Year Abbie Moved There." What year should go in the box?

- F 1853
- G 1854
- H 1855
- J 1856

