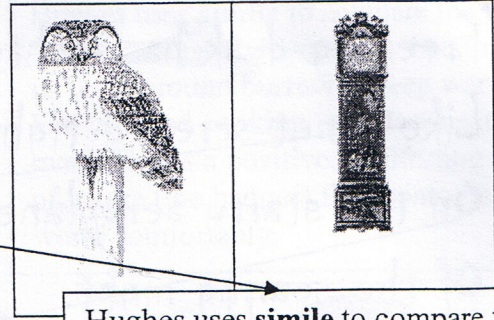


The owl is pale on the gatepost  
Like a clock on its tower.

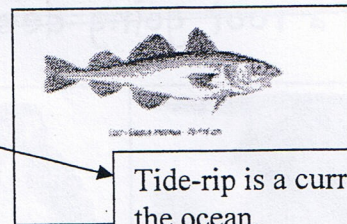


Hughes uses **simile** to compare the way an owl sits on up on a gate post with the way a clock-face sits high up on top of the clock mechanism. He does this to show that the owl is quite happy perched up high above the cold ground of the winter night.

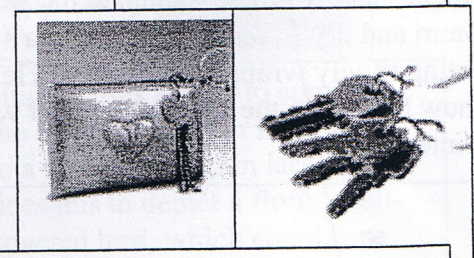
Moonlight freezes the shaggy world  
Like a mammoth of ice -



The past and the future  
Are the jaws of a steel vice.  
But the cod is in the tide-rip  
Like a key in a purse.



Tide-rip is a current in the ocean.



Hughes uses simile to compare the way a cod sleeps in the ocean tides during the night as securely as keys sitting inside their owner's purse. He does this to convey to the reader that the cod [nature] is comfortable even in wintry cold water.