

NCERT SOLUTIONS

CLASS - 11th



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Class : 11th

Subject : English

Chapter : 2

Chapter Name : We're Not Afraid to Die... if We Can All Be Together

Q1 List the steps taken by the captain (i) to protect the ship when rough weather began. (ii) to check the flooding of the water in the ship.

Answer. The arrival of atrocious weather brought a lot of perturbation along but the captain was prepared enough to deal with all the hardships as;

(i) He dropped down the storm jib in order to lower the speed of the boat, lashed the mooring rope, put on life jackets and oilskins and went through the life raft drill in case they need to abandon the 'Wavewalker'.

(ii) To save the ship from sinking, the captain took a canvas and stretched it across the poles to secure waterproof hatch covers which didn't prove to be a bad idea as it deflected water sideways. The captain also connected an electric pump to an out-pipe to lower the water level.

Thus, they were saved from a dreadful condition.

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Q2 Describe the mental condition of the voyagers on 4 and 5 January.

Answer. After 36 hours of continuous pumping, the voyagers were relieved as the conditions weren't that harsh on January 4. The rough weather abated and they had their first meal in the two days. They were a tad bit relieved, however this comfort didn't last long as the weather was alarming again on January 5. This day brought along the fear of losing lives which enthralled the minds of voyagers with restlessness.

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Q3 Describe the shifts in the narration of the events as indicated in the three sections of the text. Give a subtitle to each section.

Answer. The different shifts in the narration of the three sections are as follows;

(i) The First Section: This section is filled with the zeal of the narrator where he describes the onset of his voyage across the world which he had been dreaming of, his entire life. He depicts his fascination towards seafaring activities which he and his wife had honed. They were quite cheerful and excited to go on the three-year voyage.

(ii) The Second Section: This was the most dreadful part of their entire journey, where they were hit by the atrocious weather and almost lost the hope of being alive. Although with their perseverance and hardwork they won over the weather. The captain and her daughter Sue, faced major injuries, however their courage defeated the tyranny of nature.

(iii) The Third Section: This section brings the happiness in the hearts of voyagers as they were no longer in the grip of danger. They ultimately found a small island where they managed to take a new turn of life offering the opportunity to live again.

If provided the subtitles the most apt would be;

Section 1: The Voyage begins

Section 2: The Horrifying Sea

Section 3: The 'Triumph'

Page : 18 , Block Name : Understanding the text

Q1 What difference did you notice between the reaction of the adults and the children when faced with danger?

Answer. There was a huge difference in the attitude of the adults and children.

When adults have lost all the hopes of being alive, children showed the utmost valor. They showed faith in their father and tried to provide moral support to the family. Even at the time when death was nearest to them, Jonn wasn't afraid to die and Sue tried to ease the condition by giving greeting card to her family members.

This shows when the adults failed to keep the hope of being alive, children proved to be the wisest ones in the darkest of times.

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Q2 How does the story suggest that optimism helps to endure “the direst stress”?

Answer. The entire instance of optimism lies in context of children, when they didn't lose the hope of being the winner over tyrant gales. It was their optimism which kept up the 'never give up' attitude of the captain. Their moral support fueled everyone with high spirits. It has been best showcased when Sue presented the greeting card to her family members.

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Q3 What lessons do we learn from such hazardous experiences when we are face-to-face with death?

Answer. We learn the following points to keep in mind while facing any unwanted hazardous experience;

1. Optimism is the most important thing that helps us to give our best in the worst situations.
2. Resilience is needed in order to chase victory.
3. One must fight with the utmost valor and courage one could.

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Q4 Why do you think people undertake such adventurous expeditions in spite of the risks involved?

Answer. Some people are adventurous to an extent that they even stake their life in order to enjoy the moment. This might be a reason behind them taking such risks.

Page : 18 , Block Name : Talking about the text

Q1 We have come across words like 'gale' and 'storm' in the account. Here are two more words for 'storm': typhoon, cyclone. How many words does your language have for 'storm'?

Answer. Storm has many names in various languages but in Hindi it is popularly known as 'aandhi' and 'toofan'.

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Q2 Here are the terms for different kinds of vessels: yacht, boat, canoe, ship, steamer, schooner. Think of similar terms in your language.

Answer. There are many words in Hindi which are used for word 'boat' , some of the mostly used are 'Naav', 'Kashti', 'Jahaz' and 'Nauka'

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Q3 'Catamaran' is a kind of a boat. Do you know which Indian language this word is derived from? Check the dictionary.

Answer. 'Catamaran' is derived from Tamil word, 'Kattumaram'.

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Q4 Have you heard any boatmen's songs? What kind of emotions do these songs usually express?

Answer. Yes. Boatmen's songs generally express their love for the sea.

Page : 19 , Block Name : Thinking about language

Q1 The following words used in the text as ship terminology are also commonly used in another sense. In what contexts would you use the other meaning?

knot stern boom hatch anchor

Answer. Knot- loop, a tangled clump.

Stern- Strict , firm.

Boom- to flourish, to make a loud sound, to publicly praise.

Hatch - to produce or put forth

Anchor - Host of an event, final runner in a relay race, of relating to security and stability.

Page : 19 , Block Name : Working with words

Q2 The following three compound words end in -ship. What does each of them mean?

Airship flagship lightship

Answer. Airship- An aircraft lighter than air that can be propelled forward through the air as well as steered.

Flagship- The ship occupied by the fleet's commander who denotes it by flying his flag in a maritime fleet ; the most important one of a related group.

Lightship- A ship equipped with a very large lamp.

Page : 19 , Block Name : Working with words

Q3 The following are the meanings listed in the dictionary against the phrase 'take on'. In which meaning is it used in the third paragraph of the account:

take on sth: to begin to have a particular quality or appearance; to assume sth

take sb on: to employ sb; to engage sb to accept sb as one's opponent in a game, contest or conflict

take sb/sth on: to decide to do sth; to allow sth/sb to enter e.g. a bus, plane or ship; to take sth/sb on board

Answer. In the lines "...we took on two crewman to help us tackle ... roughest seas..." in the third paragraph, the word 'took on' means to take somebody on i.e. to employ or engage someone.

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