Think About It!

Close-Reading Questions: Read the article “Into the Dark Water” in the September 2017 issue. Then go back and reread sections of the article to answer the questions below.

1. Read the first section. What information about the Titanic disaster is included in the first paragraph?

2. Why does this first paragraph hook you—make you want to read the rest of the article?
Think About It!, p. 2

3. In the first section, the author describes what it was like to eat in the Titanic’s first-class restaurant. Which photo on page 6 helps you understand this experience? What does it show?

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4. In “A Simple Question,” Jack finds out that his father had not boarded a lifeboat. What does Jack say about why his father stayed on board the Titanic?

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Continued on next page >
5. Why do you think Jack wrote his book about the Titanic in honor of his father?

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Critical-Thinking Question (a big question about the whole article):

6. Think about the title of this article and the photo on page 5. What is the connection between the title and the photo and Jack’s experiences?

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Pause and Think

Before Reading: Below you’ll find the Pause and Think questions from “Into the Dark Water” in the September 2017 issue. Read the sections that go along with each question and then answer the Pause and Think question below.

1. Beginning Section

PAUSE AND THINK: What was special about the Titanic?

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2. “Too Quiet” Section

PAUSE AND THINK: Why did the engines on the Titanic stop?

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3. “Sinking in an Hour” Section

PAUSE AND THINK: How many lifeboats were there? Why was that a problem?

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4. “Lost in the Crowd” Section

PAUSE AND THINK: How did Jack escape from the Titanic?

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5. “A Simple Question” Section

PAUSE AND THINK: How did the survivors make it to New York City?

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Titanic Vocabulary

Directions: This issue’s nonfiction article includes several words you could use when talking or writing about the Titanic disaster. Complete each section below to help you get to know these words.

A. Brainstorm some words that come to mind when you think about the Titanic disaster. Write them here:

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B. We’ve highlighted six Titanic-related words in “Into the Dark Water.” Here they are with their meanings. Place a ✓ next to the words that are new to you. As you’re reading, look at these meanings.

_____ elegant: grand, beautiful

_____ first-class: the best-quality and often most expensive way to travel

_____ transatlantic: crossing the Atlantic Ocean

_____ iceberg: a giant chunk of floating ice

_____ gasping: trying hard to breathe

_____ eerie: creepy

C. Here are three sentences. Fill in the blank in each with one of the vocabulary words to the left. Use the definitions to help you.

1. We watched a video about a glacier. I never knew that’s where an ______________________ comes from.

2. The way the black cat stared at me with his yellow eyes was _________________.

3. My family is taking a cruise to England, sailing across the Atlantic Ocean. It’ll be my first __________________ trip.

Extra Practice!

Imagine you’ve just taken a trip across the Atlantic Ocean. Write three sentences about what happened. Use at least one vocabulary word from this page in each sentence.

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“Into the Dark Water” Quiz

Directions: Read the article “Into the Dark Water” in the September 2017 issue. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. Which word do you think of when you read the sentence “His large first-class cabin was as fancy as a room in the finest hotel”?
   A transatlantic  
   B elegant  
   C iceberg  
   D eerie

2. Why did the Titanic's engines stop and the ship become strangely quiet?
   A The freezing ocean water stopped the Titanic's engines.  
   B The Titanic had struck an iceberg.  
   C The Titanic was waiting for a ship to pass.  
   D The Titanic was hit by a huge storm.

3. Why did people believe that the Titanic would never sink?
   A The Titanic was the most elegant ship ever built.  
   B It was the Titanic's first voyage.  
   C There were promises that Titanic's safety features would keep the ship floating.  
   D There were 20 lifeboats on the Titanic.

4. Which sentence in the section “Lost in the Crowd” tells you what the section heading means?
   A “Suddenly, Jack was separated from his parents.”  
   B “And there were no lifeboats left.”  
   C “He jumped as far out from the ship as he could.”  
   D “The ship kept sinking.”

5. Why did the captain of the Carpathia rush through the icy ocean waters?
   A He wanted to rescue the Titanic's passengers.  
   B His family was on the Titanic.  
   C He wanted to bring lifeboats to the Titanic's passengers.  
   D He wanted to bring food to the Titanic's passengers.

6. How does the map on page 9 help you understand this article?
   A It shows how big the Atlantic Ocean is.  
   B It shows the path of the Titanic's voyage.  
   C It shows where Jack Thayer was born.  
   D It shows the time when the Titanic sank.
Short Answer

Directions: Answer the question below in a short, well-written paragraph.

How did Jack Thayer survive the sinking of the Titanic?

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Nonfiction Reading Kit

Use this kit to help you build important reading skills as you explore the nonfiction feature “Into the Dark Water.”

Text Features

REMEMBER! Text features are the headlines, pictures, captions, maps, and other things on the page that help you understand an article.

Directions: Look at the text features in the article to prepare to answer the questions below.

1. Read the caption under the photo of Jack Thayer on page 4. Then look at the poster about the Titanic on the same page. How does the poster help you better understand the information in the caption?

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2. What do you learn about the different passengers on the Titanic by looking at the pair of photos and reading the captions on pages 6 and 7?

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3. Look at the photo on page 9. What does it help you understand about the sinking of the Titanic? What mood or feeling does it create?

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Nonfiction Reading Kit

Use this kit to help you build important reading skills as you explore the article “Into the Dark Water.”

Text Evidence

REMEMBER! Text evidence is a piece of the text that you can either quote or explain to prove a point or answer a question.

Directions: Read each question below carefully. Some will ask you to select text evidence—or details in the story—to support a statement. Others will ask you to respond in your own words, supporting your ideas with text evidence.

1. Which piece of text evidence explains why the Titanic’s designer warned that the giant ship would sink in an hour?
   a. “It was the biggest, most elegant ship ever built.” (p. 6)
   b. “Water was pouring into the ship’s lower levels.” (p. 7)
   c. “Hundreds of people dropped into the sea.” (p. 8)
   d. “At 3:30 a.m., a ship called the Carpathia arrived.” (p. 9)

2. Reread the section “Lost in the Crowd.” How was Jack able to save himself before the ship sank? Use specific evidence from the text.

   _______________________________________
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3. The section “Sinking in an Hour” explains that the Titanic had only 20 lifeboats. Circle the letter of the piece of text evidence that tells you why there were so few lifeboats.

a. “The Titanic was about 1,200 miles from New York.”

b. “If people couldn’t escape by lifeboat, they had almost no hope of survival.”

c. “The people who designed the ship never thought they would need more.”

d. “Death comes within 45 minutes.”

4. In your own words, explain what Jack saw and felt when he was on the overturned lifeboat. Use specific evidence from the text.

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Titanic Contest

My name: ____________________________________________________________

Teacher’s name: ______________________________________________________

School name: _________________________________________________________

School phone number: _________________________________________________

School address: _________________________________________________________

(Remember to include your city, state, and ZIP code!)

See page 9 of the September 2017 issue of Storyworks Jr. for more information about this contest.

My Response

Which text features helped you understand what it was like to be a passenger on the Titanic?

Answer in a paragraph, citing at least two text features.

Entries will be judged on: • Use of details from the story
  • Grammar, spelling, and punctuation
  • Good organization and transitions
  • Creativity

Continue on another piece of paper if you need more room.