

2

PROSE

“We’re Not Afraid to Die... if We Can All Be Together”

—Gordon Cook and Alan East



This story is about a person and his family, who decided to overtake a journey around the world as was taken by Captain James Cook about 200 years ago. The narrator tells us how they had to face great hardships and he was about to be drowned in the ocean. However, the voyagers did not lose courage and in the end, they reached a tiny island Amsterdam. This story depicts the courage of the voyagers, who with their sheer willpower were able to survive.

Topic Notes

 Characters in Brief

 Chapter in Detail

 Significant Morals

 Dictionary





Characters in Brief

Narrator– He was a brave person and a loving father who loved his children very much. Like a true captain he was able to save his ship from the gigantic waves. The narrator loved adventure, therefore he undertook around the world journey.

Narrator's wife– She was a loving mother and wife. She helped her husband at every step. She never lost courage even during the storm. She was trained to travel on the sea. She even controlled the ship when her husband went down the deck to his children.

The crewmen– (The American Larry Vigil and the Swiss Herb Seigler) Since, the Southern Indian Ocean

is the roughest ocean of the world, the narrator took their services and hired them in Cape Town. Both the crewmen were very brave. They helped the narrator to repair the ship. They were full of courage.

The children– (Jonathan – six years old, and Sue – seven years old). Both the children were very courageous like adults. Sue got badly injured, even then she faced the situation very bravely. Jonathan loved his family very much. He was not afraid to die and said "We aren't afraid of dying, if we can all be together."



Chapter in Detail

The Narrator Plans a Voyage Around the World

In July 1976, the narrator with his wife Mary and two children Jonathan aged 6 and Suzanne aged 7, planned a voyage around the world just like the famous Captain James Cook. They had been preparing for this voyage for the last 16 years. They had built a boat 'Wavewalker' which was 23 meters long and weighed 30 tons. They had spent months fitting the big boat. They tested in the roughest weather.

They started their journey from Plymouth, England and sailed from Africa to Cape Town which was quite a pleasant journey. Before heading east, they hired two crewmen, American Larry Vigil and Swiss Herb Seigler to help them in the World's roughest sea, the southern Indian Ocean.

They began encountering strong gales and alarming waves during the second day. The size of the waves was up to 15 metres. By December 25, they all managed to reach 35,000 kilometres east of Cape Town. Though the weather was extremely bad, they had a wonderful holiday and celebrated Christmas together. But the weather worsened.



Character's Mood

→ Excited; jubilant

Example 1. Extract Based:

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

In July 1976, my wife Mary, son Jonathan, 6, daughter Suzanne, 7, and I set sail from Plymouth, England, to duplicate the round-the-world voyage made 200 years earlier by Captain James Cook. For the longest time, Mary and I — a 37-year-old businessman — had dreamt of sailing in the wake of the famous explorer, and for the past 16 years we had spent all our leisure time honing our seafaring skills in British waters.

(A) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The phrase 'honing our seafaring skills' suggests

(B) What was the tone of the narrator in the given extract ?

(C) How can you tell that the narrator was determined to explore the British waters ?

(D) Select the word that will NOT complete the sentence appropriately. For the longest time, the businessman and his wife dreamt of sailing in the wake of the explorer.

- (a) notorious (b) eminent
(c) prominent (d) famed

(E) How can you say that the narrator was a family-oriented man?

Ans. (A) The phrase 'honing our seafaring skills' suggests enhancing, perfecting and sharpening their seafaring skills.

(B) The narrator's tone in the given extract was happy and excited. He had spent 16 years of his life in sharpening his skills needed for exploring the sea, and now the time had come to finally use those skills.

(C) The narrator was determined to explore the British waters as he had been using his leisure time since last 16 years to perfect his seafaring skills, also he had waited for 16 years to start this voyage.

(D) (a) notorious

Explanation: The word 'famous' is used for one who has done some heroic or good deed, while the word notorious has a negative meaning. It means one who is known for his bad deeds. The other options are synonyms of famous. Hence, (a) is correct.

- (E) The narrator was a family-oriented man, this can be seen as he took his whole family on the voyage even his seven-years old daughter and six-years-old son. He was the type of person who believed in doing everything with his family.

A Disaster Faced

On January 2, the big waves hit them. They were sailing with a small storm jib and were still going at the speed of eight knots per hours. They could see giant waves rolling towards them. They tried to slow down the ship by dropping the storm jib.

The voyagers faced first disaster at around 6 p.m. The sky became dark and there was ominous silence everywhere. A big wave that appeared like a cloud enclosed the ship. It was such a big wave that the narrator had never seen before.

The narrator was flown overboard by a big wave. His head was smashed into the wheel. It appeared to him that his end was near. His ship *Wavewalker* was almost overturned.



Character's Mood

→ *Distressed; anxious*

The Narrator's Life was Saved with Great Difficulty

His ribs were smashed and mouth was filled with blood and his teeth were also broken. In spite of so many injuries, the narrator took charge of the situation. Somehow, he found the wheel, lined up the stern for the next wave and waited.

He could feel that the ship had water everywhere, but he didn't leave the wheel to investigate the ship. When they realized that the ship was sinking, Larry and Herb started pumping out water from the ship. Clothes, crockery, charts, tins and toys were immersed in deep water.

There was a short circuit in the electric pump. Luckily, the narrator found another electric pump. The entire night, everyone was endlessly pumping, steering, repairing and sending radio signals for help.



Character's Mood

→ *Hopeful*

The Voyagers' Survival

They had survived for 15 hours, since the wave hit the ship. But it would not be able to hold together long enough and reach Australia. There were two small islands a few hundred kilometres to the east. But their only hope was Amsterdam, a French scientific base.

After 36 hours of continuous pumping, finally on January 4, they reached the last few centimetres

of water. They hoisted the storm jib. They headed towards the islands. They ate their first meal in almost two days.

But their happiness was short-lived as the weather deteriorated. At 4 p.m. black clouds began building up and within an hour the wind was back to 40 knots. By dawn of January 5, their situation worsened.



Character's Mood

→ *Distressed*

The Kids Faced the Situation Heroically

The narrator's son, Jonathan, told him that he didn't fear death as long as all his family members were with him. These words motivated the narrator to fight the sea. With all the determination, the narrator tried his best to protect the weakened starboard side.

He decided to stop the ship with the undamaged port hull facing the oncoming waves. But, the movement of the ship brought more water in through the broken planks in the evening. Both, Mary and the narrator felt their end was very near.

But the *Wavewalker* rode out the storm. By the morning of January 6, the winds also became less severe. The narrator calculated the readings on the sextant. He could determine from his readings that they were somewhere in 150,000 kilometres of ocean looking for a 65 kilometre wide island.

While the narrator was thinking about his calculations, Sue joined him. The left side of her head was very swollen and her blackened eyes looked narrow. She gave him a card she had made. She had drawn caricatures of Mary and the narrator on the front of the card. It also had a message expressing love and thanks.



Character's Mood

→ *Optimistic*

At Last They were Able to Reach Amsterdam

The narrator had rechecked his calculations as he had lost his main compass and was using a spare which had not been corrected for magnetic variations. At 2 p.m. after checking calculations, the narrator asked Larry to steer a course of 180 degrees. If they got lucky, they could see the island at 5 p.m.

The narrator went below and went off to sleep. When he woke up around 6 p.m. it was dark outside. He thought that they might have missed the island and was quite worried.

His son called him the best daddy in the world and the best captain. Sue told him that he had found the island which was as big as the battleship. The narrator rushed to the deck and gazed with relief at the complete outline of Ile Amsterdam. It was the most beautiful island in the world for them.

They anchored the ship at some distance from the shore for the night and in the morning, 28 inhabitants of the Amsterdam Island helped them to move on the shore. As the narrator felt the land beneath his feet, he thought of his crewmen, Larry and Herb who were always cheerful and optimistic inspite of such distressful situation, his wife Mary, who stayed on the wheel for all the crucial hours.

Most of all, he thought of his seven years old daughter, Sue who had a head injury and had to undergo six minor operations to remove the blood clot in her head and his six years old son Jonathan who never gave up and was not afraid to die.



Character's Mood

→ Happy



Significant Morals

- (1) The thirst for adventure is inborn in every human being.
- (2) People are always curious to repeat what their predecessors have done.
- (3) Children can also show great courage in times of difficulty and danger.
- (4) Hard work and perseverance definitely bear fruit in the end.



Dictionary

Words	Meanings	Synonyms	Antonyms
Honing	Making perfect	Polishing	Dulling
Leg	(here) one part of something	(here) Part	Whole
Reasoned	Well thought out	Coherent	Incoherent
Gigantic	Very big	Huge	Small, miniature
Painful	Causing pain	Traumatic	Painless
Ominous	Suggesting that something bad is going to happen	Dismal	Favourable
Frightful	Very serious	Horrible	Mild
Upright	Vertical and straight up	Vertical	Horizontal
Capsizing	Used for boats to turn over in the water	Overturning	Standing up
Scrambled	All over the place	Disorganized	Organized
Abated	Decreased	Dwindled	Increased
Conviction	Faith	Confidence	Doubt

OBJECTIVE Type Questions

[1 mark]

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Who, according to the narrator, was the bravest among the crewman ?
 - (a) Mary
 - (b) Sue and Jonathan
 - (c) Larry
 - (d) Herbie

Ans. (b) Sue and Jonathan

Explanation: According to the narrator, his kids were the bravest as they acted more mature than their age. Sue did not tell about her injury

to not worry his parents and Jonathan was not afraid to die. Hence, (b) is correct.

2. At that moment, a tousled head appeared by my bunk. What does the phrase tousled head mean ?
 - (a) Untidy
 - (b) Small
 - (c) Hairy
 - (d) Kempt

Ans. (a) Untidy

Explanation: Tousled head means head with untidy hair or unkempt hair. Hence, (a) is correct.

3. The first indication of impending disaster came at about 6 p.m., with an ominous silence. Which of the following can NOT be used in place of ominous ?

(a) Apocalyptic (b) Dire
(c) Threatening (d) Auspicious

Ans. (d) *Auspicious*

Explanation: The word ominous means dangerous or menacing, all others are synonyms of ominous and auspicious means favourable. Hence, (d) is correct.

4. Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the lesson ?

(a) Optimism and courage help to tide over difficulties
(b) Hoping against hope
(c) Good things come to those who wait
(d) Patience is a great virtue

Ans. (a) *Optimism and courage help to tide over difficulties*

Explanation: The lesson talks about how the narrator and his family safely reached the Ile Amsterdam island with their optimistic attitude, determination and courage, and how they overcame their difficulties and got successful in their attempt. Hence, (a) is correct.

5. Our only hope was to reach these pinpricks in the vast ocean. Which quote best describes this sentence?

(a) To find the needle in a Haystack.
(b) Hoping against hope.
(c) Good things come to those who wait.
(d) Burn your boats/bridges.

Ans. (a) *To find the needle in a Haystack.*

Explanation: The ocean was very vast. The voyagers were looking for any of the two tiny islands in it. It was no less than 'to find the needle in a haystack.'

Extract Based Questions

6. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

The first leg of our planned three-year, 105,000 kilometre journey passed pleasantly as we sailed down the west coast of Africa to Cape Town. There, before heading east, we took on two crewmen – American Larry Vigil and Swiss Herb Seigler – to help us tackle one of the world's roughest seas, the southern Indian Ocean.

(A) The narrator's decision of hiring two crewmen was correct. Justify.

(B) Fill in the blank with an appropriate answer.

The phrase 'Passed pleasantly' suggests that

- (C) What is the tone of the narrator in the given extract ?

Ans. (A) The narrator's decision of hiring the two crewmen was absolutely correct as they faced many disasters while sailing through the Indian Ocean, and had the two crewmen be not there, the narrator and his family would not have survived the disasters.

(B) the sail was smooth and free from any disaster.

Explanation: The phrase 'Passed pleasantly' suggests that the sail down the west coast of Africa to Cape Town was smooth and free from any disaster. The narrator and his family enjoyed the sail.

(C) The tone of the narrator in the given extract is happy and determined. The narrator's sail down the West coast of Africa to Cape Town was smooth and pleasant. He is determined to sail through the Southern Indian Ocean, the world's roughest sea, and for that he had hired two crewmen.

7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

December 25 found us 3,500 kilometres east of Cape Town. Despite atrocious weather, we had a wonderful holiday complete with a Christmas tree. New Year's Day saw no improvement in the weather, but we reasoned that it had to change soon. And it did change – for the worse.

(A) What does the statement, "Despite atrocious weather, we had a wonderful holiday complete with a Christmas tree," tell us about the narrator and his family ?

(B) Fill in the blank with an appropriate answer.

In the given extract, trait of the narrator and his family is shown.

(C) Which of the headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract?

(a) Good things come to those who wait
(b) Optimism helps to endure the direst stress
(c) Burn your boats
(d) To find a needle in the haystack

Ans. (A) The statement tells us that the narrator had a very loving family. To them, togetherness mattered the most. They could enjoy the festival of Christmas despite the atrocious weather showed their optimistic attitude, towards the situation. They were able to find happiness even in a distressing situation.

(B) *optimistic*

Explanation: The given extract shows the optimistic attitude of the narrator and his family. It can be seen as they had a wonderful holiday despite the atrocious weather and that they reasoned the weather will change for the better.

(C) (b) *Optimism helps to endure the direst stress*

Explanation: The optimistic attitude of the narrator and his family helped them to enjoy their festival and had a wonderful holiday with a Christmas tree despite the atrocious weather. Hence, (b) is correct.

SHORT ANSWER Type Questions (SA)

[2 marks]

Answer the following questions in about 40 - 50 words:

8. List the steps taken by the captain to protect the ship when the rough weather began.

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Ans. The captain took all the steps to prevent the ship and lives of the others in the rough weather. Everyone was asked to wear life jackets. The captain bound everything with strong ropes. He and the other crew members pumped the water out of the ship.

9. How did the captain check the flooding of the water in the ship?

Ans. The captain screwed some waterproof hatch covers across the big holes. In this way he tried to check the flooding of water.

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

Ans. Most of the water was pumped out from the ship. The voyagers had their first meal in two days. However, this relief was short-lived. By the evening of 4th, the weather started deteriorating again and the situation became worse. However, no one in the ship lost their courage.

11. There is a difference between the reaction of the adults and the children when faced with danger. Explain.

Ans. The adults were stressed when the weather suddenly changed. They took enough precautions to protect the ship. However, the children suffered silently and patiently. The narrator's daughter Sue did not bother him of her head injury and Jonathan also acted courageously as he said he was not afraid to die unless and until everyone was together.

12. Give a brief description of the narrator's boat. How had the narrator equipped and tested it?

Ans. The Narrator's boat, *Wavewalker* was a 23 meter, 30 ton wooden-hulled beauty. It had

been professionally built. They had spent months fitting it out and testing it in the roughest weather.

13. How can you say that the narrator planned a long voyage?

Ans. The narrator had planned his voyage to cover 105,000 kilometers in three years.

14. When and with whom did the narrator begin his journey?

Ans. The narrator began his voyage in July 1976 with his wife Mary, son Jonathan aged six years and seven years old daughter Suzanne. They set sail from Plymouth, England.

15. Whom did the narrator employ and why? When did he do so?

Ans. The narrator employed the crewmen American Larry Vigil and Swiss Herb Seigler to help them tackle one of the World's roughest seas, the Southern Indian Ocean. He employed them before leaving Cape Town.

16. How can you say that their second day out of Cape Town worried the narrator ?

Ans. On their second day out of Cape Town, they began to face strong winds. For the next few weeks, they blew continuously. He was worried about the size of the waves that rose up to 15 meters, as high as their main mast.

17. The narrator called the Ile Amsterdam 'the most beautiful island in the world'. Explain.

Ans. Ile Amsterdam was a very small island made of volcanic rock. It had little vegetation and only 28 inhabitants. However, the island was a ray of hope of survival for the narrator and his family and it provided them safety from the huge waves of the sea as well as the opportunity to repair the damaged ship. Thus, it was the most beautiful island in the world for them.

18. Comment how the weather changed after New Year's Day.

Ans. At dawn on January 2, the waves were huge. As the ship rose to the top of each wave, the narrator and other members could see endless huge sea rolling towards them. The sound of the wind was painful to the ears.

19. Examine that the people on the crew took every step possible to face the rough weather.

Ans. To face the rough weather, they tried to slow the boat down by dropping the storm jib and lashing a heavy mooring rope in a loop across the stem. Then they tied together everything and went through the life-raft drill. They attached lifelines, put on waterproof clothes and life jackets.

20. What sort of waves hit the ship? How did the narrator react?

Ans. The waves were enormous and gigantic. It appeared perfectly vertical and almost twice the height of the other waves. It had a frightful breaking crest.

21. The impact of the torrent was deadly for the narrator. Explain.

Ans. The waves were so huge that it shook the deck. A torrent of green and white water broke over the ship. The narrator's head struck the wheel and he flew over board and was sinking below the waves. Unexpectedly, his head came out of the water. *Wavewalker* overturned in the water.

22. The narrator managed to survive through the attacks of subsequent waves. Elaborate.

Ans. As the ship was overturned by the waves, one of the waves hurled the ship upright. The narrator grabbed the guard rails and sailed through the air into *Wavewalker's* main boom. But the waves hit him hard and his mouth was filled with blood and broken teeth. Somehow, he found the wheel, lined up the stern for the next wave. In this way, the narrator managed to survive through the attacks of subsequent waves.

23. Why could the crew not set any sail on the main mast on 4 January?

Ans. The crew could not set any sail on the main mast on 4 January as the hull of the ship was badly damaged and the pressure on the

rigging would pull the damaged section of the hull apart. So, they hoisted the storm jib and headed towards the islands.

24. Suzanne's injuries were serious. Explain.

Ans. Suzanne had a bump on her head, because of which her head was quite swollen. Her head injury took six minor operations to remove a recurring blood clot between skin and the skull. This shows her injuries were serious.

25. What adventurous task did the narrator take on? How did they prepare for it?

Ans. The narrator, a thirty seven year old businessman, along with his wife Mary, son Jonathan 6, daughter Suzanne 7, set from Plymouth England to fulfill his dream duplicating the world voyage like Captain James Cook which he had done 200 years earlier, in a 30 ton wooden-hulled boat.

For the past sixteen years they had spent all their leisure time improving their seafaring skills in British Waters. Their boat, *Wavewalker* which was 23 metre, 30 ton wooden-hulled was professionally built and they had spent months fitting and testing it in the roughest weather that they could find.

26. Imagine that the narrator of "We're not afraid to die if we can all be together," writes a diary entry, before starting their sailing journey, in the context of his experience and feelings.

Write this diary entry, as the narrator, in about 120 words.

Ans. Monday, 1st June, 1976

4 p.m.

Our patience and practice of 16 years is going to reap the fruits. My wife Mary and I with our kids Suzanne and Jonathan are finally going to start our around-the-world voyage just like the great explorer Captain James Cook. Mary and I have been honing our seafaring skills for 16 years. I am excited and nervous as we'll have to sail through the Southern Indian Ocean, the world's roughest sea, but to be safe and sure, I have planned to hire two crewmen who will help us in our journey and in time of need. I had packed all the essentials and also a Christmas tree for celebrating Christmas on the ship. I can't wait for our journey to start. I hope everything goes well.

John.

LONG ANSWER Type Questions (LA)

[5 marks]

Answer the following questions in about 120 - 150 words:

- 27. The narrator had harrowing experience as the waves hit *Wavewalker* in the Southern Indian Ocean. Describe.**

Ans. At dawn on January 2, the mighty waves hit the stern of the ship, the *Wavewalker*. They were sailing with only a small storm jib. As the ship rose to the top of each wave, they could see the endless sea rolling towards them. The screaming of the waves were also painful to their ears. In order to slow the boat they dropped the storm jib and fastened a heavy rope across the stern. Then they attached their lifelines, put oilskins and life jackets and waited. Suddenly, a huge explosion shook the deck. A torrent of white and green water broke in the ship. The narrator's head hit the wheel and he was swept overboard. He was sinking below the waves and was losing his consciousness. He accepted that his end was near when suddenly his head appeared out of water. He saw *Wavewalker* was turning around a few meters away. Then a wave tossed the ship upright. He grabbed the guard rails and sailed through the air into *Wavewalker's* main boom. The waves followed him around the deck and he was hit hard. His mouth was full of blood and teeth. Somehow, he found the wheel, lined up the stern for the next wave and held tightly.

- 28. The narrator and his wife waited to accomplish their dream. Explain.**

Ans. The narrator and his wife Mary had always dreamt of sailing just like the famous explorer Captain James Cook who had done the round-the-world voyage 200 years ago. For sixteen years they spent all their leisure time improving their seafaring skills in the British waters. Their boat, *Wavewalker* was a 23 meter, 30 ton wooden-hulled beauty. It had been professionally built and they spent months fitting it out and testing it in the roughest weather they could find. Finally, in July 1976, the narrator, his wife Mary, son Jonathan aged 6, and his daughter Suzanne aged 7, set sail from Plymouth, England to duplicate the round-the-world voyage.

- 29. How did they deal with the water that had gushed into the ship?**

Ans. The narrator could feel that the ship had water everywhere. But he did not dare to abandon the wheel to check. When Mary appeared, she

told him that they were sinking as the decks were smashed. As Mary took control over the wheel, the narrator made his way towards the hatch. Larry and Herb were pumping like madmen. The narrator saw broken timbers hanging, the starboard side bulged, clothes, crockery, charts, tins and toys immersed in deep water. He struggled in children's cabin, found a hammer, screws and canvas and managed to stretch the canvas and secure waterproof hatch covers across the gaping holes. Some water continued to stream below, but most of it was flowing over the sides. More problems arose when their hand pump started to block up with the debris and it short-circuited. Then, the narrator remembered he had another electric pump under the chartroom floor. He connected it to out-pipe and pumped the water out of the ship.

- 30. Why was everyone desperate to look for an island? How did they manage?**

Ans. The people on the boat had survived for fifteen hours since the wave hit the *Wavewalker*. They knew that there was a tremendous leak in the ship and it wouldn't hold together long for them to reach Australia. The narrator checked the charts and calculated that there were two small islands a few hundred kilometres to the east. One of them was the Ile Amsterdam, a French scientific base. But the waves had put the auxiliary engine out of order and the weather continued to worsen. Finally, the wind stopped and the ship reached the last few centimetres of water.

The narrator managed as he kept a check on the wind speed and kept on calculating their position. He could determine that they were somewhere in 150,000kilometers of ocean looking for a 65 kilometres wide island. About 2 p.m., he went on deck and asked Larry to steer a course of 185 degrees. Eventually, they reached the island at 6 p.m.

- 31. The kids handled the situation with greater maturity than their age suggests. Discuss.**

Ans. The narrator's daughter, Suzanne who was 7 years old had hit her head. The left side of her head was very swollen and her eyes were blackened and narrowed to slits. She also had a deep cut on her arm. She did not worry much about her injuries as she didn't want to worry her father who was trying to save their lives. Instead, she gave the narrator a card with caricatures drawn of Mary and the

narrator. The underlying message of love and positive hope made the narrator happy. He was touched by the thoughtfulness of his 7 year old daughter who did not want to worry them. Jonathan, the narrator's 6 years old son assured that they were not afraid of dying unless and until the family was together. The children, certainly braved the situation more maturely than their years.

32. The second day of the journey was distressful. Elaborate.

Ans. On the second day when the narrator and his family were out of Cape Town, they began to encounter strong winds. For the next few weeks, the strong winds blew continuously. The size of the waves were disturbing. They were up to 15 metres which bothered the narrator. On 25 December, they were 3,500 kilometres east of Cape Town. Despite bad weather, they had a wonderful holiday.

On the early morning of 2 January, the waves became huge. They were sailing with a small storm jib and were still making eight knots. As the ship rose to the top of each wave, they could see the vast sea rolling towards them. In order to slow the boat, they dropped the storm jib and lashed a heavy mooring rope in a loop across the stern. Then they double lashed everything, went through their life-raft drill. They attached their lifelines, put on oilskins and lifejackets.

33. What injuries did the narrator and his daughter, Suzanne suffer during the voyage? How did the narrator repair the damaged boat?

Ans. A flood of green and white water broke over the ship and the narrators head hit against the wheel. The narrator felt as if he was being swallowed by the waves. Unexpectedly, his head came out of the water. The boat was almost turning over and its poles almost horizontal. As a wave hurled the boat upright, the narrator grabbed its guard rails and sailed into the *Wavewalker*. He was tossed around the deck like a rag doll. His left ribs were cracked and his mouth was filled with blood and broken teeth. Suzanne's head was swollen badly. She had two huge black eyes and had a deep cut on her arm.

The narrator gave charge of the wheel to his wife Mary. After checking that his crew members and children were safe he went and found a hammer, screws and canvas. He made some repairs to stop the water from entering in the boat. He managed to stretch canvas and secure waterproof hatch and covered the open holes. Some water flowed towards the

sides when he covered the open holes on the deck, he also found the hand pump blocked with debris. The electric pump was also short-circuited. The two spare hand pumps were also thrown overboard due to the storm. Fortunately, he found another electric hand pump which worked properly.

34. Justify the narrator's gestures towards his crewmen and family after landing on the Island.

Ans. The narrator thanked his crewmen Larry and Herbie for remaining cheerful and hopeful under the distressful situation. He also thanked his wife Mary who had controlled the wheel for hours. Sue, his seven year old girl who did not complain about her head injury which took six minor operations to remove a blood clot between skin and skull and his six year old son Jonathan who was not afraid to die. Thus, all the family members and the crewmen deserved thanks from the narrator for their brave spirits. All the six people on the board showed remarkable guts and forbearance. Their hard work, cheerfulness and optimism in the time of disaster helped them ride out the storm.

35. What inspired the narrator to undertake such a risky voyage? What lessons do we learn from such hazardous experience when we are face to face with death?

Ans. The narrator was a businessman but he had dreamt of sailing around the World. He wanted to duplicate the achievement of Captain James Cook who had made a record 200 years ago. In order to fulfil his dream he had spent his leisure time learning seafaring skills in British Waters for the last sixteen years.

Such hazardous experience brings out the best in us. These experiences may bring us face to face with death but they impart us many valuable lessons of life. Fear is a negative emotion and one who surrender without fighting the circumstances is a loser. On the other hand, people who face the situations with courage and confidence overcome all the adversities. Everyone in the story faced the situation courageously. Larry and Herb who were always cheerful and optimistic in such adverse situation, the narrator's wife, Mary who stayed on the wheel in the crucial hours, his daughter Sue who did not bother for her head injury and his son, Jonathan who never gave up and was not afraid to die. Their hard work, cheerfulness and optimism in the time of disaster helped them ride through the storm.

36. How does the story suggest the optimism helps to “endure the direst stress?”

[Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

Ans. The story suggests that optimism certainly helps to endure the direst stress. The behaviour of our adults during crisis bears it out. As the mighty waves smashed the deck, water entered the ship through many holes and openings.

Right from the evening of January 2, Larry and Herb started pumping out water. They worked continuously, excitedly and feverishly for 36 hours. It was a result of their continuous pumping that they reached the last few centimetres of water on January 4. They remained cheerful and optimistic while facing extremely dangerous situations. The narrator did not lose his courage, hope and presence of mind while facing problems. He did not worry about the loss of equipment. He used whatever was available there. His self confidence and practical knowledge helped them to steer out of storm and reach the Ile Amsterdam. Mary also stayed at the wheel for all those crucial hours. She did not lose hope or courage either.

37. Critically examine the fact that inspite of the risks involved, people undertake adventurous expeditions.
[Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

Ans. Man is adventurous by nature. The greater the risk, the more the thrill. The thrill of exploring unknown lands, discovering wealth and beauty lying hidden in far off lands inspires brave hearts to stake their life of rest and repose. Perhaps they value one crowded hour of glory more than a long uneventful life of sloth and inactivity. It is true that sometimes adventures are quite risky and prove fatal. The failures of some people do not daunt (discourage) the real lovers of adventure. They draw lessons from the shortcomings and errors of others and

make fresh attempts with greater zeal. Part of the charm of an adventurous expedition lies in adapting oneself to the circumstances and overcoming the odds. The success of an adventurous expedition brings name, fame and wealth. History books are replete with accounts of famous explorers like Columbus, Vasco da Gama, Captain Cook and Captain Scott.

38. The narrator wrote a letter to his friend describing his journey. Write this letter on his behalf.

Ans. 41, Oson Street

Mumbai - 110009

14th January, 2021

Dear Sam,

I hope you are doing well.

I am fortunate to write this letter to you after the last few adventurous and distressful days. Our journey after crossing the Cape Town has been like a game of life and death. But thank God that I hired two crewmen Larry and Herb to help us sail through the Southern Indian Ocean. We started encountering strong winds since our second day. Though we celebrated Christmas wonderfully. After New Year's Day, we thought the weather will improve but it didn't and we were hit by a giant wave. I almost died and Suzanne also had a severe head injury. The situation worsened, Mary and I thought that our end was near but our kids were patient and optimistic throughout this. Now we have finally reached an island and are safe. I don't think I would've been able to do this without Mary, our kids and our crewmen, they all have been a great source of courage.

Take care of yourself

Your friend

John

