

A Common Core State Anchor Standards-Aligned Educator Guide

RESCUING TITANIC: A TRUE STORY OF QUIET BRAVERY IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC

ABOUT THE BOOK:

PUBLISHER: Wide Eyed Editions

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In the middle of the night, the Carpathia received a distress call from the sinking Titanic. The intrepid little ship heroically changed course and headed straight into the frozen sea to help save as many people as it could. Follow the Carpathia as it risks everything to navigate remote, treacherous ice fields in the dark and come to the rescue of passengers on the world-famous ocean liner.

Along the journey, you will learn all about Morse code, navigation tools, the different roles of the crew, how the ships found each other, and by-the-minute details of exactly what happened on this cold and fateful night.

ABOUT AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR - FLORA DELARGY:

Flora Delargy is an author and illustrator from Belfast. She has a master's degree in Children's Book Illustration from Cambridge School of Art. In 2019, she was selected for the Illustrators Exhibition at the Bologna Children's Book Fair. RESCUING TITANIC is her debut book for children.



PRE-READING DISCUSSION:

- Tell all you know about the Titanic. What happened to the ship? Why?
- Study the illustration featured on the cover of the book. Compare and contrast the images of the two ships. Describe their shared features. How are they different?
- What does the phrase "quiet bravery" suggest about the story?
- Why was maneuvering through an ice field considered to be a perilous feat?
- Predict why the story of the Titanic continues to fascinate people throughout history. Why is it so intriguing?

POST-READING DISCUSSION:

The year was 1912 and it was the golden age of steam travel. In one of the world's busiest ports, great liners like floating hotels were docked, each hoping to outpace the other across the Atlantic (pg. 10).

- The term *golden age* refers to a time in history when great feats were accomplished, when new advances were made. Examine the phrase "golden age of steam travel." Predict why the Titanic became the symbol of accomplishments.
- Being that the Titanic was considered a beacon of luxury and progress, consider the crushing impact its sinking had upon the globe. Is it any wonder that the world was shocked by the events that transpired in mid-April of 1912? Why is this so?



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Common Core State Anchor Standards Alignment:

English Language Arts Standards Anchor Standards for Reading: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1, R.2, R.3, R.5, R.7, R.8, R.10
English Language Arts Standards Anchor Standards for Writing: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.1, W.2, W.4, W.7, W.8
English Language Arts Standards Anchor Standards for Speaking & Listening: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1, SL.2, SL.4, SL.6

It was now forty minutes since the Titanic had hit the iceberg and many of its first class passengers had gathered in the lounge wearing their lifebelts. Many struggled to believe the ship, which had been called “unsinkable”, could truly be in danger (pg. 34).

- The word *oblivious* means unaware, detached, or heedless. *Denial* means rebuttal or disapproval. Which word best describes the reaction of the first class passengers to the announcement that the ship was in danger, oblivious or in denial? Explain your answer.
- Predict what might have happened if the passengers and crew had responded to the announcement as if it were a true emergency. What if they would have used the forty minutes to evacuate the ship? Do you think the story would have ended any differently? How so?
- The word *valiant* means courage, steadfast, or unwavering. Identify instances when individuals on the Titanic reacted to the situation in a valiant manner.

Captain Rostron’s mind was clear as he thought. He ordered Dean to return to the bridge and turn the ship around. They were 58 nautical miles from the Titanic’s reported location. At her customary top speed of 14 knots, it would take the Carpathia at least four agonizing hours to reach the sinking ship. They had to go faster (pg. 38).

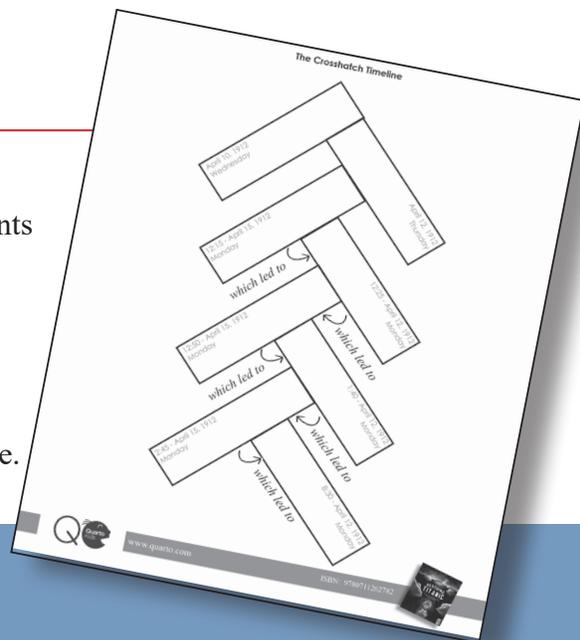
- What does Captain Rostron’s willingness to save the Titanic reveal about his character? Explain your answer.
- Identify the risks Captain Rostron took in his efforts to reach the Titanic in a timely manner.
- Which of the crew members do you feel were most helpful in the quest to save the Titanic? How so?
- Examine ways that the Captain continued to care about the Titanic survivors even after they had arrived safely.

They continued to pick their way carefully through the bergs, gradually picking up all of the Titanic’s survivors from 18 lifeboats. A number of passengers were able to climb up rope ladders draped down the side of the Carpathia, while others were hoisted up on slings or chairs. Children were placed into canvas sacks and winched aboard. In all, 706 passengers and crew survived the sinking (pg. 60).

- The sinking of the Titanic is said to be the worst peacetime disaster at sea. Why is this so?
- What reasons do you feel contribute most to this horrible tragedy - a lack of emergency preparedness, faulty ship construction, or fate? Explain your answer.
- There are still a number of unanswered questions regarding why such a magnificent vessel sank so quickly. If you could turn back time, determine how this dreadful event could have been prevented.

APPLICATION: THE CROSSHATCH TIMELINE

Using the template on the following page as a guide, instruct students to determine the sequence of key events that took place on the fateful day the Titanic sank. Using the book as reference, write a short synopsis of events that took place during each moment in time depicted on the timeline. Analyze the sequence of events noted on the timeline. Have students write an informative essay describing their reaction to the information recorded on the timeline. Encourage students to share their work with the class.



The Crosshatch Timeline

