

MAIN POINTS

- The story is a first person account of an adventurous ordeal that a family experiences.
- In July 1976, the narrator set sail from England.
- The narrator wanted to duplicate the round-the-world voyage made 200 years ago by Captain James Cook.
- In this voyage the narrator was accompanied by his wife Mary, daughter Suzanne and son Jonathan.
- Their boat ‘Wavewalker’ was specially designed for this purpose and tested for the roughest weather.
- The first leg of the 1,05,000 kilometres journey passed pleasantly.
- Two crewmen - American Larry Vigil and Swiss Herb Seigler joined to help them tackle one of the world’s roughest seas, the southern Indian ocean.
- On the second day out of Cape Town they encountered strong gales.
- The weather was quite hostile on Christmas and on New Year day.
- The torrent of green and white water broke over the ship.
- ‘Wavewalker’ was near capsizing.
- The waves tossed the narrator like a rag doll. His ribs cracked and his mouth was filled with blood and broken teeth.
- Larry and Vigil were pumping out the water from the ship like madmen.
- They had survived for 15 hours but it was quite difficult to reach Australia.
- The narrator decided to reach Ile Amsterdam , a French scientific base.
- At about 6 pm on January 6, they anchored offshore a tiny island where all the 28 inhabitants came to cheer them on.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. **The author of the story ‘We’re Not Afraid to Die...if We Can All Be Together’ is.....**
 - a. Gordon Cook and Alan East
 - b. Khushwant Singh
 - c. Nani Palkivala
 - d. Nick Middleton
2. **When did the narrator begin his voyage?**
 - a. June 1977
 - b. July 1976
 - c. May 1976
 - d. May 1977
3. **200 years ago round-the-world voyage was made by-----**
 - a. Captain James Cook
 - b. Marco Polo
 - c. Vasco Da Gama
 - d. Christopher Columbus
4. **The narrator started the voyage from -----**
 - a. Southampton
 - b. Plymouth
 - c. Liverpool
 - d. Seacliff
5. **Who was Mary?**
 - a. Narrator’s wife
 - b. Narrator’s sister
 - c. Narrator’s friend
 - d. Narrator’s mother
6. **For how many years the narrator spent honing his seafaring skills?**
 - a. 12
 - b. 15
 - c. 16
 - d. 17
7. **What was the name of the author’s boat?**
 - a. Sea beauty
 - b. Wavewalker
 - c. Titanic
 - d. Voyager
8. **Who joined the narrator in the voyage in Cape Town?**
 - a. Larry Vigil and Herb Seigler
 - b. Mary and Sue
 - c. Sue and Jon
 - d. Mary and Jon
9. **The length of ‘Wavewalker’ was**
 - a. 22 metre
 - b. 23 metre
 - c. 30 metre
 - d. 25 metre

10. **The weight of 'Wavewalker' was.....**
 - a. 30 ton
 - b. 40 ton
 - c. 20 ton
 - d. 50 ton
11. **The voyage passed pleasantly up to.....**
 - a. Cape Town
 - b. East London
 - c. Port Elizabeth
 - d. Durban
12. **On the second day out of Cape Town, they encountered waves up to.....**
 - a. 12 metres
 - b. 15 metres
 - c. 10 metres
 - d. 14 metres
13. **What was the occupation of the author?**
 - a. Teacher
 - b. Sailor
 - c. Businessman
 - d. Tailor
14. **Why did the narrator decide to go for a round-the-world voyage?**
 - a. To explore the world
 - b. To duplicate the voyage made 200 years ago by Captain James Cook
 - c. To explore the sea
 - d. To see different ports
15. **Who were Sue and Jon?**
 - a. The narrator's children
 - b. The narrator's friends
 - c. The narrator's neighbours
 - d. The narrator's colleagues
16. **What was Sue's full name?**
 - a. Suzanne
 - b. Susan
 - c. Samantha
 - d. None of these
17. **What was Jon's full name?**
 - a. Johnson
 - b. Jordan
 - c. Jonathan
 - d. Jameson
18. **On December 25, how far were they from Cape Town?**
 - a. 3500 kilometres
 - b. 4000 kilometres
 - c. 2000 kilometres
 - d. 2500 kilometres
19. **On January 2, the waves became.....**
 - a. Gigantic
 - b. Atrocious
 - c. Quiet
 - d. Ferocious
20. **Which part of the journey passed pleasantly?**
 - a. Last part
 - b. First leg of the journey
 - c. The first few months
 - d. None of these
21. **What was the speed of the ship on January 2?**
 - a. 8 knots
 - b. 10 knots
 - c. 9 knots
 - d. 11 knots
22. **The first indication of impending disaster came**
 - a. When the ship began to shake
 - b. When the wind dropped and the sky grew dark
 - c. When the ship was hit by strong waves
 - d. When it began to rain heavily
23. **What did they do to slow down the boat?**
 - a. The raised the main sail
 - b. They raised the small sail
 - c. They dropped the storm jib and lashed a heavy mooring rope across the stern
 - d. They stopped the ship
24. **Who screamed "We're sinking"?**
 - a. Mary
 - b. Larry
 - c. Herb
 - d. Sue
25. **Who was thrown overboard?**
 - a. The narrator
 - b. Mary
 - c. Sue
 - d. Larry
26. **What happened when the ship was hit by a torrent of green and white water?**
 - a. The narrator was thrown overboard
 - b. Sue had hurt her ribs
 - c. Mary had broken some teeth
 - d. Larry had a cut above his left eye
27. **What did the narrator see when his head popped out of water?**
 - a. The storm jib was torn
 - b. Wavewalker was capsizing
 - c. The main mast was broken
 - d. The anchor was broken
28. **What was the condition of the narrator after he managed to get back on the deck?**
 - a. He broke his hand
 - b. He broke his leg
 - c. His ribs cracked , his mouth was filled with blood and broken teeth
 - d. He smashed his head again
29. **Who were pumping like madmen?**

- a. The narrator b. Mary
c. Jonathan d. Larry and Herb
30. **Why was the ship taking in water?**
a. The starboard side had bulged inwards
b. The deck was smashed
c. The stern was broken
d. Hull was broken
31. **Where was Sue hurt?**
a. Above her eyes
b. On the leg
c. On her hand
d. Below the knee
32. **Why was it surprising that they were getting no replies to their Mayday calls?**
a. Their radio was not working
b. They were in the remote corner of the world
c. Their ship was damaged
d. No one wanted to answer
33. **How long had they survived since the first wave hit the ship?**
a. 10 hours b. 15 hours
c. 20 hours d. 12 hours
34. **Where were they sailing towards from Cape Town?**
a. Europe b. Australia
c. Asia d. New Zealand
35. **Where did the narrator decide to sail instead of Australia?**
a. New Zealand b. Mauritius
c. Ile Amsterdam d. None of these
36. **What was their first meal in two days?**
a. Bread and butter
b. Noodles
c. Meat balls
d. Corned beef and cracker biscuits
37. **Who said “we aren’t afraid of dying if we can all be together”?**
a. Sue b. Mary
c. Jon d. Herb
38. **When did they reach Ile Amsterdam?**
a. On January 6 at 6 pm
b. On January 4 at 6 pm
c. On January 5 at 2 pm
d. On January 4 at 2 pm

39. **Who cheered them when they reached the island?**
a. 28 inhabitants
b. The native people
c. People from another ship
d. No one
40. **How old were Sue and Jon?**
a. 5 and 6 years old
b. 8 and 9 years old
c. 7 and 6 years old
d. 10 and 9 years old

ANSWER KEY

1-a, 2-b, 3-a, 4-b, 5-a, 6-c, 7-b, 8-a, 9-b, 10-a, 11-a, 12-b, 13-c, 14-b, 15-a, 16-a, 17-c, 18-a, 19-a, 20-b, 21-a, 22-b, 23-c, 24-a, 25-a, 26-a, 27-b, 28-c, 29-d, 30-a, 31-a, 32-b, 33-b, 34-b, 35-c, 36-d, 37-c, 38-a, 39-a, 40-c

VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. **When and from where did the narrator start the voyage?**
Ans. The narrator started the voyage in July 1976 from Plymouth, England.
2. **Whose round-the-world voyage has the narrator duplicated?**
Ans. Captain James Cook
3. **Who else accompanied the narrator in the voyage?**
Ans. The narrator was accompanied by his wife Mary, son Jonathan and daughter Suzanne in the voyage.
4. **How was the first leg of the three year journey?**
Ans. The first leg of the three year journey passed pleasantly as they sailed down the west coast of Africa to Cape Town.
5. **Why did the narrator hire the two crewmen Larry Vigil and Herb Seigler?**
Ans. The narrator hired the two crewmen to help him tackle one of the world’s roughest sea, the southern Indian ocean.
6. **How did the narrator and the crew celebrate Christmas?**
Ans. Despite atrocious weather, the narrator and the crew had a wonderful holiday complete with a Christmas tree.

7. What are Mayday calls?

Ans. Mayday calls are distress calls for help.

8. What worried the narrator and the crew on the second day out of Cape Town?

Ans. The waves which were 15 metres high worried the narrator and the crew the most.

9. What was the first indication of the impending disaster?

Ans. The first indication of the impending disaster was when the wind dropped and the sky grew dark.

10. Why did the narrator decide to sail to Ile Amsterdam?

Ans. After they had survived for 15 hours, Wavewalker wouldn't hold together for long. So the narrator decided to sail to Ile Amsterdam.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Whom did the narrator and his family want to duplicate and why?

Ans. The narrator and his family wanted to duplicate the round the world voyage made 200 years ago by Captain James Cook. Captain James Cook discovered Australia. So the narrator set sail from Plymouth in England in July 1976 on a 1,05,000 kilometres journey. His wife and two children also accompanied him.

2. How did they pass the first leg of the journey?

Ans. Everything went well in the first leg of their 'planned three year 1,05,000 kilometre journey'. It passed pleasantly as they sailed down the west coast of Africa to Cape Town. But the trouble started when they left Cape Town. On the second day out of Cape Town, they began to encounter strong waves and gales.

3. What were the first indications of the 'impending disaster' that ultimately struck them on January 2?

Ans. The first indication of the impending disaster came at about 6 PM on January 2. An ominous silence prevailed all around. The wind dropped. The sky immediately grew dark. Then came a growing roar. A huge vertical wave almost twice the height of the other waves came roaring towards the ship. These were sure indications of the coming disaster.

4. What precautions did the narrator, the captain, take when huge waves struck the boat on

January 2?

Ans. The captain decided to slow down the boat. The storm jib was dropped. Heavy mooring ropes were looped across the stern. They went through their life raft drill then attached lifelines. Oilskins and life jackets were donned.

5. Who were Larry and Herb? What role did they play?

Ans. Before heading east from Cape Town, the narrator employed two crewmen. They were Larry Vigil and Herb Seigler. They were to help them 'to tackle one of the world's roughest seas, the southern Indian Ocean'. Larry and Herb did their job quite well. When the gigantic waves struck Wavewalker, they continued pumping water out of the boat.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Justify the title, 'We're Not Afraid to Die... If We Can All Be Together'.

Ans. "We're Not Afraid to Die...If We Can All Be Together" is the story of courage and perseverance that was shown by the narrator, his wife, crewmen and children. The lesson is aptly and logically titled "We're Not Afraid to Die...If We Can All Be Together". These are the words of Jonathan, the son of the narrator. Like his brave father, Jon declared that they were not afraid to die. But it would be better if they died together- daddy and mummy and Sue and he. These were some of the instances of courage shown by the narrator, his wife and children and of course, the crewmen.

2. Describe the steps taken by the captain and the crewmen to protect the boat from the storm and the gigantic waves.

Ans. Just on the second day out of Cape Town, Wavewalker began to face all kinds of troubles. Strong gales lashed the boat. For the next few weeks the size of the waves was really alarming. They went up as high as the main mast. The captain took immediate steps to save the boat. The boat was slowed down. The storm jib was dropped. Heavy mooring ropes were lashed across the stern. Lifelines were attached. Oilskins and life jackets were donned. A tremendous explosion shook the deck. A torrent of green and white water broke over the ship. Wavewalker was near capsizing. Her masts had fallen flat. Larry and Herb continued pumping water out like madmen. If they couldn't make some repairs, they would surely sink. Waterproof covers across the open holes were covered. Most of the water was now being thrown over the sides.

3. What damage did 'Wavewalker' suffer as a result of bad weather?

Ans. Gigantic waves struck 'Wavewalker'. The decks were smashed. Water was gushing in through holes and openings. The whole starboard side had bulged inwards. Clothes, crockery, charts, tins and toys moved around the cabins. The electric pump short circuited. Water level rose high. The two spare hand pumps had been wrenched overboard. Waves had also swept off the forestay sail, the jib, the dinghies and the main anchor. The boat's main rib frames were smashed down the keel. A whole section of the starboard hull was being held up by a few cupboard partitions only. The hull of the ship had been damaged so badly that the pressure of rigging could simply pull the damaged section of the hull apart. Wavewalker was so damaged that she could not hold long enough to reach Australia.