

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

DISCUSSION GUIDE #1

Encourage critical thinking and support your students' literacy development by asking questions during reading. Here are some questions you can ask your readers to engage them in a discussion.

CHAPTER 1:

"Another Belfast Trip"

CHAPTER 2:

"There's Talk of an Iceberg, Ma'am"

COMPREHENSION

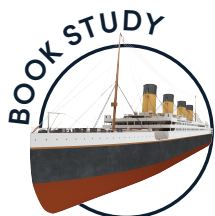
- Why does the *Titanic* strike the iceberg even though the iceberg has been spotted?
- Describe what some passengers experience as the iceberg passes.
- How do the first- and second-class passengers react to the news that the ship has collided with an iceberg? What factors contribute to their reactions?
- What does Third Officer Groves see from the bridge of the *Californian*? What assumption does he make?
- Who is Thomas Andrews, and how does he know the sinking is inevitable?
- How do some of the passengers on the lower decks react when they sense something is wrong?
- Why does Captain Smith return to the wireless shack?
- What information does Operator Phillips send?

ANALYSIS

- Examine the confusion among crew members after the noise from the impact. What do various crew members think has happened, and why is there so much confusion?
- Why does Officer Evans of the *Californian* feel snubbed by the radio operators of the *Titanic*? How does this influence his behavior, and what's the larger impact of his behavior?

PERSONAL CONNECTION

- Some passengers don't voice their concerns when they feel the ship slanting. Consider a time when you wish you had spoken up about something but decided not to. What was the situation, and what was the impact of your decision to remain quiet at the time?



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CHAPTER 3:

"God Himself Could Not Sink This Ship"

CHAPTER 4:

"You Go and I'll Stay a While"

COMPREHENSION

- What job are the stewards given, and what makes this job challenging?
- Once the passengers have their life jackets on, they're divided into groups on the decks. Why?
- How many passengers are aboard the *Titanic*, and how many can fit in the lifeboats? Why is there a discrepancy?
- Which passengers are the first ones ordered to board the lifeboats? Why are many of the passengers hesitant to board the lifeboats?
- Why is the band playing music while passengers board lifeboats?
- What familiar acronym replaces CQD? What's the historic significance of the *Titanic's* use of this acronym?
- When the wireless messages do not result in immediate help, what is the next order the captain gives?
- What does Second Officer Lightoller use as a gauge to know how fast the water is rising on the ship?
- What is the capacity of lifeboat No. 1, and how many people are on the lifeboat when it's lowered?
- What struggle does the third-class steward face when trying to get steerage passengers into life jackets, and why?

ANALYSIS

- Why does the boatswain tell the truth about the danger to the crew members but keep that truth hidden from the passengers?
- When it comes to the lifeboats, many of the steerage passengers have a different experience than the first-class passengers. What are some of the struggles that the steerage passengers face, and why?

PERSONAL CONNECTION

- Consider the items people take with them from their cabins. If you were faced with an emergency evacuation, what items would you take with you?