

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

DISCUSSION GUIDE #2

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 5:

"I Believe She's Gone, Hardy"

CHAPTER 6:

"That's the Way of It at This Kind of Time"

COMPREHENSION

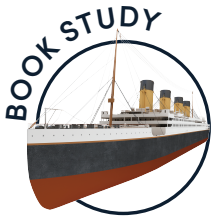
- Which prominent businessman tries to get on lifeboat No. 4 to accompany his wife, and what happens?
- How many people remain on board the *Titanic* when there's only one regular lifeboat left to deploy? How many seats are available on the boat?
- What does the crew do to ensure only women board the last remaining collapsible lifeboat?
- What does Captain Smith tell the crew at 2:05 a.m.?
- Describe the overall feeling aboard the *Titanic* once the last regular lifeboat departs.
- What happens to Collapsible Boat B?
- Ten miles away, aboard the *Californian*, Second Officer Stone and Apprentice Gibson watch the *Titanic*. To them, the *Titanic*'s lights seem to look low. What incorrect assumption do they make?

ANALYSIS

- Describe the various behaviors Mr. Bruce Ismay exhibits aboard the *Titanic*. How does his shifting relationship with the crew and others on the ship connect to the tragedy at large?
- The author lists all the items that go down with the ship as the bow plunges into the ocean, rendering the ship vertical. Why do you think he does this?

PERSONAL CONNECTION

- In the rush to get women and children into lifeboats, some passengers act selflessly while others act selfishly. Who in your life is selfless, and how have they demonstrated that quality?



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CHAPTER 7:

"There Is Your Beautiful Nightdress Gone"

CHAPTER 8:

"It Reminds Me of a Bloomin' Picnic"

COMPREHENSION

- In response to the *Titanic* disaster, what new procedures do ships follow when ice is involved?
- What international rules regarding safety and disaster preparedness are adopted after the sinking of the *Titanic*?
- What assumption does Colonel Gracie make, and what is his reaction when he realizes his error?
- What difficulties do the swimmers face?
- What does Fifth Officer Lowe do with the lifeboats, and why?
- What are some examples of the kind gestures that took place on board the lifeboats?
- What is unique about Collapsible Boat B, and how does Officer Lightoller command the boat so the passengers don't drown?

ANALYSIS

- How were third-class passengers discriminated against in the midst of the *Titanic's* sinking? What evidence from earlier in the text suggests that the third-class passengers would suffer in greater numbers than other passenger classes as the tragedy unfolds?
- How does the author build the claim that the sinking of the *Titanic* changes how society thinks about wealth?

PERSONAL CONNECTION

- In response to the *Titanic's* sinking, new policies are established to take precautions against another unthinkable disaster, and people reflect on society's focus on wealth as an indication of worth. Think about a time when you or someone you know could have been more proactive about something. How would things have been different?