

We're Not Afraid to Die if We Can All Be Together

Question Answers

Short Answer Questions

Q1. What did the narrator plan to do? What preparations did he make for it?

Answer: Similar to what Captain James Cook had done 200 years prior, the narrator intended to embark on a round-the-world sea expedition. To achieve this goal, he and his wife had been honing their maritime skills for the past 16 years.

Q2. Give a brief description of the narrator's boat. How had the narrator equipped and tested it?

Answer: The "Wavewalker" was the name of the narrator's ship. It was a magnificent wooden-hulled ship measuring 23 metres long and 30 tonnes. It had been expertly constructed. Months had been spent preparing it and testing it under the most adverse conditions.

Q3. How long did the narrator plan his voyage to last?

Answer: The narrator planned to travel 105,000 kilometres across the world in three years.

Q4. When and with whom did the narrator begin his voyage?

Answer: In July 1976, the narrator set out on his sea voyage. He was accompanied by his wife Mary, son Jonathan, age 6, and daughter Suzanne, age 7. They set sail from Plymouth, England.

Q5. Whom did the narrator employ and why? When did he do so?

Answer: In order to navigate the southern Indian Ocean, one of the world's worst seas, the narrator hired two crewmen—the American Larry Vigil and the Swiss Herb Seigler. He engaged them before departing from Cape Town.

Long Answer Questions

Q1. The story 'We're Not Afraid to Die' has a lesson 'optimism helps to endure direst stress'. Do you agree? Why/Why not?

Answer. The real account of surviving against insurmountable odds told in "We're Not Afraid to die..." is one of bravery, endurance, and optimism. On the Wavewalker, which was travelling across the globe, were the narrator, his wife, and their two children. They met terrible weather and their boat sustained significant damage in the Indian Ocean. After being thrown overboard, the narrator was able to return to the boat.

The kids suffered injuries as well. Despite the boat flooding, no one gave up. The boat was repeatedly being saved by the narrator. The children trusted their father. Water from the boat was pumped out, but more water kept coming in. The storm's ferocity gradually subsided, but the boat continued to leak. The boat was able to navigate 165 kilometres to Amsterdam by the narrator. All the people on the boat, even the kids, stayed positive and optimistic throughout this tragedy. Nobody ever showed hopelessness. The narrator drew strength from their optimism.

Q2. 'We're Not Afraid to Die ... If We Can All Be Together' traces down the saga of hardship and bravery as portrayed in this adventure story.

Answer: Strong wind gusts were met by the ship. They double-lashed everything, but the

captain was thrown overboard and his head, ribs, and teeth were broken by a massive wave. Afterward, he was tossed back despite holding onto the guardrails. The starboard gaped open, broken timber was scattered around the ship, and water began to seep in. He checked on the kids and covered the starboard hole with watertight hatch covering while Mary held the wheel. All night long, their Mayday calls went unanswered, adding to their misery.

They estimated their odds of reaching Amsterdam after 15 hours of battling the seas, yet 36 hours later, they were still afloat despite worsening weather.

The captain had instructed Larry to steer a course of 185 degrees, but by five o'clock he had fallen asleep. The next thing he remembered was his kids congratulating him on finding the island.

Q3. 'Our optimistic attitude helps us to face extremely dangerous situations.' Discuss with reference to the story 'We're Not Afraid to Die....'

Answer: The captain of the Wavewalker, the narrator, was optimistic, and it was that positivity that prevented his family and the other crew members from dying. The storm caused significant damage to the ship, and everyone on board was at risk of sinking. But the narrator had a really upbeat stance. Never once did he consider giving up or letting the situation get to him. Instead, he was always searching for answers as issues kept cropping up one after another.

Because the narrator maintained his composure throughout the situation, he was able to handle the problems that arose. He and his crew were committed to surviving the blizzard. After being flung overboard, he recovered and clung to the wheel. He made preparations to pump seawater out.

The kids gave him a lot of courage. His urge to defend them and his ship was fueled by their faith in him. He was able to employ his seamanship and navigational abilities to the fullest extent due to his calm demeanour.

Q4. How did the children's presence and behaviour during the crisis affect the narrator?

Answer: The fact that the children on board were fully aware of the situation threatening their boat but chose not to panic or voice their anxiety bolstered the narrator's determination to save it. When his kid said that they did not mind dying, but rather wished to die together, his will to fight against all obstacles was further bolstered. This admirable courage honed the narrator's resourcefulness as he laboriously calculated wind speeds, changes in course, drift, and current to get them to their destination.

The narrator was overwhelmed by feelings and his resolve was strengthened when Sue gave him a "Thank-you" card. The kids still had implicit faith in him and thought he had led them to the safety of the island.

Q5. What qualities helped the Captain of the ship and his crew overcome the crisis?

Answer: The boat was being steered by a competent captain with excellent seamanship abilities. Like many seasoned salts, he thought that every emergency should have a backup plan. He was the perfect parent, drawing courage from the warmth and consideration shown to him by his kids while putting others' needs before his own. He was resourceful and connected the electric pump that was hidden beneath the chartroom floor to avert disaster. He employed improvised equipment to determine their course at sea in order to reach the little island after their gear were destroyed.

The captain endured admirably and was unfazed by the several setbacks he experienced. While being honest about their limited possibilities of reaching safety, he managed to make everyone feel assured by not showing signs of concern. His crew was encouraged to stay buoyant by this leadership quality.