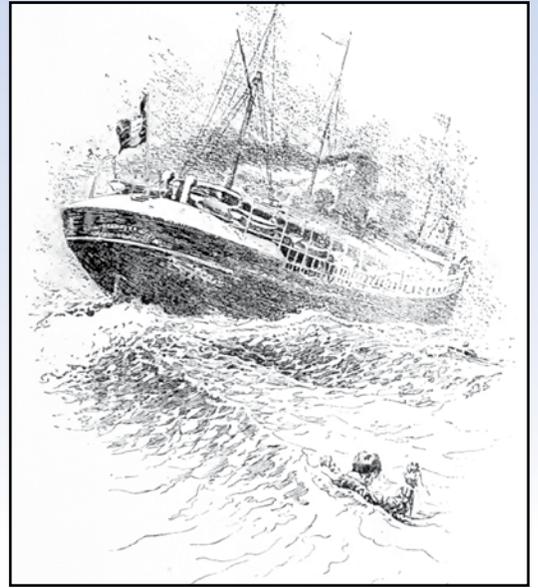


# CAPTAINS COURAGEOUS

*Rudyard Kipling wrote Captains Courageous in 1897. It is the story of Harvey Cheyne, a wealthy and spoiled 15-year-old American boy, who falls overboard on the way to Europe with his parents. Harvey is rescued by the crew of a fishing boat from Gloucester, Massachusetts. Disko Troop is the captain.*

*In this passage, Harvey has just awoken on the fishing boat after the rescue. Dan Troop, Disko's son, is with him. Dan is about the same age as Harvey. Dan speaks first.*



## CAPTAINS COURAGEOUS

*by Rudyard Kipling  
from Chapter I*

“There was a little common swell yes’day an’ last night,” said the boy. “But ef that’s your notion of a gale——” He whistled. “You’ll know more ‘fore you’re through. Hurry! Dad’s waitin’.”

Like many other unfortunate young people, Harvey had never in all his life received a direct order—never, at least, without long, and sometimes tearful, explanations of the advantages of obedience and the reasons for the request. Mrs. Cheyne lived in fear of breaking his spirit, which, perhaps, was the reason that she herself walked on the edge of nervous prostration. He could not see why he should be expected to hurry for any man’s pleasure, and said so. “Your dad can come down here if he’s so anxious to talk to me. I want him to take me to New York right away. It’ll pay him.”

Dan opened his eyes, as the size and beauty of this joke dawned on him. “Say, dad!” he shouted up the fo’c’sle hatch, “he says you kin slip down an’ see him ef you’re anxious that way. ‘Hear, dad?’”

The answer came back in the deepest voice Harvey had ever heard from a human chest: “Quit foolin’, Dan, and send him to me.”

Dan sniggered, and threw Harvey his warped bicycle shoes. There was something in the tones on the deck that made the boy dissemble his extreme rage and console himself with the thought of gradually unfolding the tale of his own and his father’s wealth on the voyage home. This rescue would certainly make him a hero among his friends for life. He hoisted himself on deck up a perpendicular ladder, and stumbled aft, over a score of obstructions, to where a small, thick-set, clean-shaven man with grey eyebrows sat on a step

that led up to the quarter-deck. The swell had passed in the night, leaving a long, oily sea, dotted round the horizon with the sails of a dozen fishing-boats. Between them lay little black specks, showing where the dories were out fishing. The schooner, with a triangular riding-sail on the mainmast, played easily at anchor, and except for the man by the cabin-roof——”house” they call it——she was deserted.

“Mornin’—good afternoon, I should say. You’ve nigh slep’ the clock around, young feller,” was the greeting.

“Mornin’,” said Harvey. He did not like being called “young feller”; and, as one rescued from drowning, expected sympathy. His mother suffered agonies whenever he got his feet wet; but this mariner did not seem excited.

“Naow let’s hear all abaout it. It’s quite providential, first an’ last, fer all concerned. What might be your name? Where from (we mistrust it’s Noo York), an’ where baound (we mistrust it’s Europe)?”

Harvey gave his name, the name of the steamer, and a short history of the accident, winding up with a demand to be taken back immediately to New York, where his father would pay anything any one chose to name.

“H’m,” said the shaven man, quite unmoved by the end of Harvey’s speech. “I can’t say we think special of any man, or boy even, that falls overboard from that kind o’ packet in a flat ca’am. Least of all when his excuse is thet he’s seasick.”

Excuse!” cried Harvey. “D’you suppose I’d fall overboard into your dirty little boat for fun?”

“Not knowin’ what your notions o’ fun may be, I can’t rightly say, young feller. But if I was you, I wouldn’t call the boat which, under Providence, was the means o’ savin’ ye, names. In the first place, it’s blame irreligious. In the second, it’s annoyin’ to my feelin’s—an’ I’m Disko Troop o’ the “We’re Here” o’ Gloucester, which you don’t seem rightly to know.”

# Understanding Captains Courageous

## Part I. Who Was It?

The passage has three characters: Harvey, Dan, and Disko. Write the the correct character for each event below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Captain of the boat
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Laughed at one of the other characters
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Thought there had been a great storm.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Thought one of the characters was from New York
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Didn't like being called "young feller"

## Part II. Short Answer: Do You Know?

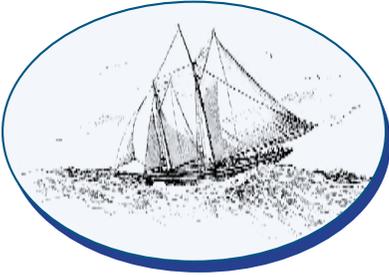
Answer each question below.

1. Why did Harvey fall overboard?
2. Why did Harvey think Disko would take him back to land?
3. What was Harvey's mother like?
4. Why did Harvey decide to go talk to Disko?
5. What did Dan and Disko think of the storm?



# Language and Vocabulary in Captains Courageous

## I. Vocabulary Match Match each word in Column A with its meaning in Column B



### Column A

1. \_\_\_\_\_ unfortunate
2. \_\_\_\_\_ prostration
3. \_\_\_\_\_ mistrust
4. \_\_\_\_\_ sniggered
5. \_\_\_\_\_ dissemble
6. \_\_\_\_\_ hoisted
7. \_\_\_\_\_ aft
8. \_\_\_\_\_ score
9. \_\_\_\_\_ mariner
10. \_\_\_\_\_ providential

### Column B

- A. laughed disrespectfully
- B. back end or stern of a boat
- C. unlucky
- D. raised or lifted
- E. twenty
- F. suspect
- G. lucky or heaven-sent
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- I. sailor
- J. hide or conceal

## Part II. Understanding the Dialogue

In *Captains Courageous*, Rudyard Kipling writes some of the dialogue to illustrate the sailors' accents. This includes adding or removing letters from words.

Below are quotations from the passage. Write underneath each one the Standard English translation.

1. "But ef that's your notion of a gale——"
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5. "Not knowin' what your notions o' fun may be, I can't rightly say, young feller."

# Find the Supporting Evidence

Below is one of the main ideas of the passage. Write three quotations from the passage that support this main idea.

On the ship Harvey was treated differently than how he was usually treated.



Three large empty circles are arranged in a triangle, connected by lines to the main idea box above. These circles are intended for students to write supporting evidence from the passage.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Captain's Courageous Word Search

Circle each word from the list in the puzzle. The words can go in any direction.

Q O T A S U B M A R E P N B C  
I L Z E E I O R D S R A B W D  
P U V Z A H J R Y R E S C U E  
D R O W N I N G K H E C A Q K  
F I V R J K F H E B M H N H N  
O E E A B T T H D G U O V D S  
O D R G U D A N Q E B O E V O  
K G B E F E O A Q I M N O R E  
J N O F I A J T W C H E Y N E  
D Q A O N L R R H N R R L N I  
L I R N D I S K O A L E O B K  
P M D V D P Q W H C R S C K K  
L E F H C G I M T P E V A R M  
F E L L E R T U Y V Z N E U A  
R Z C Q K T R Z Q F O N F Y J



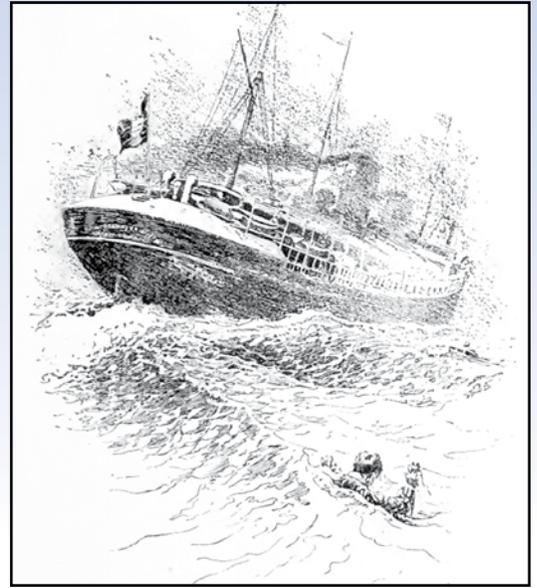
CHEYNE  
DAN  
DISKO  
DROWNING  
FELLER

HARVEY  
OVERBOARD  
RESCUE  
SCHOONER  
SEA

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1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Disko** \_\_\_\_\_ Captain of the boat
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4. \_\_\_\_\_ **Disko** \_\_\_\_\_ Thought one of the characters was from New York
5. \_\_\_\_\_ **Harvey** \_\_\_\_\_ Didn't like being called "young feller"

## Part II. Short Answer: Do You Know?

Answer each question below.

**Student's answers will vary. Example of correct answers:**

1. Why did Harvey fall overboard?

**He was seasick.**

2. Why did Harvey think Disko would take him back to land?

**Harvey's father will pay Disko for taking Harvey back to New York.**

3. What was Harvey's mother like?

**She worried about Harvey all the time over little things such as when his feet were wet. She was also concerned not to "break his spirit" by giving him orders. She did not discipline him.**

4. Why did Harvey decide to go talk to Disko?

**Disko's deep voice made Harvey realize he had better obey.**

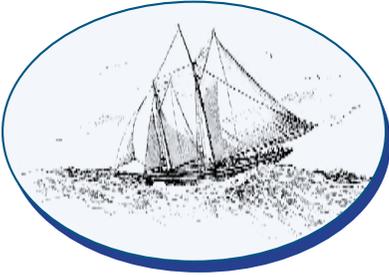
5. What did Dan and Disko think of the storm?

**They didn't think there was a storm, They thought the sea was calm.**



# Language and Vocabulary in Captains Courageous

## I. Vocabulary Match Match each word in Column A with its meaning in Column B



### Column A

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **C** \_\_\_\_\_ unfortunate
2. \_\_\_\_\_ **H** \_\_\_\_\_ prostration
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Below are quotations from the passage. Write underneath each one the Standard English translation.

1. "But ef that's your notion of a gale——"

**"But if that's your notion of a gale——"**

2. "he says you kin slip down an' see him ef you're anxious that way."

**"he says you can slip down and see him if you're anxious that way"**

3. You've nigh slep' the clock around, young feller,"

**"You've almost slept the clock around, young fellow"**

4. "Naow let's hear all abaout it."

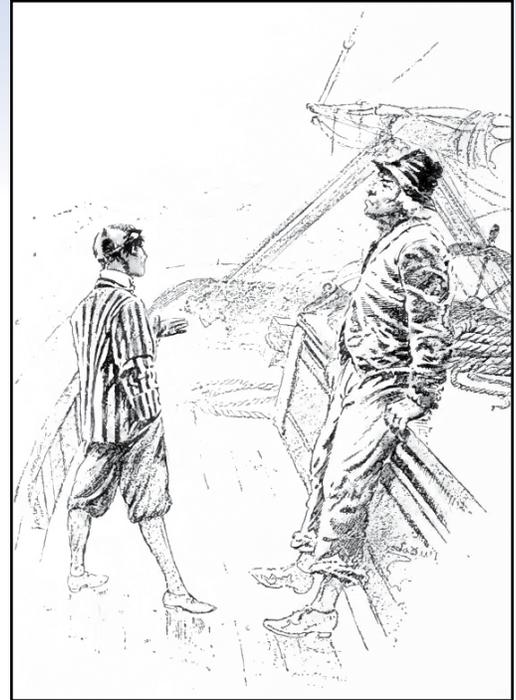
**"Now let's hear all about it."**

5. "Not knowin' what your notions o' fun may be, I can't rightly say, young feller."

**"Not knowing what your notions of fun may be, I can't truly say, young fellow."**

# Find the Supporting Evidence

Below is one of the main ideas of the passage. Write three quotations from the passage that support this main idea.



On the ship Harvey was treated differently than how he was usually treated.

Student's answers may vary. Example of correct answers:

"Harvey had never in all his life received a direct order..."

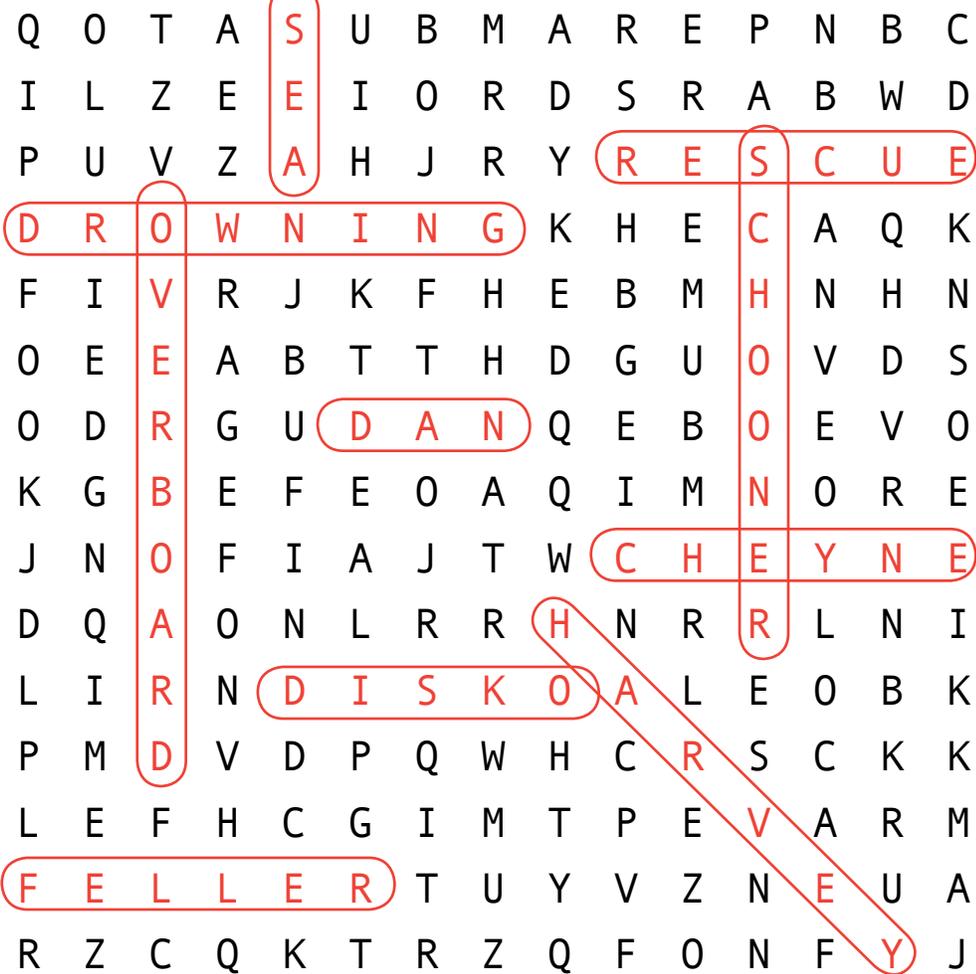
"He could not see why he should be expected to hurry for any man's pleasure..."

"His mother suffered agonies whenever he got his feet wet; but this mariner did not seem excited."



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- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
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| DAN      | OVERBOARD |
| DISKO    | RESCUE    |
| DROWNING | SCHOONER  |
| FELLER   | SEA       |