

Moby Dick

This epic American novel tells the story of Captain Ahab's remorseless hunt for the great white whale Moby Dick, and how his obsession ultimately leads to tragedy for him and his crew.

This reader uses the **EXPANSIVE READING** approach, where the text becomes a springboard to improve language skills and to explore historical background, cultural connections and other topics suggested by the text. As well as the story, written and recorded in American English, this reader contains:

- An introduction about Herman Melville and his life
- A wide range of activities practicing the four skills
- A dossier: *A Short History of Whaling*
- Internet projects
- FCE-style activities
- Trinity-style activities (Grade 7)
- A full recording of the text
- An exit test with answer key



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Step Two	■	CEFR B1.1	Exam Preparation PET
Step Three	■	CEFR B1.2	Exam Level PET
Step Four	■	CEFR B2.1	Exam Preparation FCE
Step Five	■	CEFR B2.2	Exam Level FCE
Step Six	■	CEFR C1	Exam Preparation CAE

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ISBN 978-88-530-0610-3



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READING & TRAINING

Herman Melville

Moby Dick



Step Four **B2.1**
Herman Melville

Moby Dick

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AUDIO CD



Herman Melville
MOBY DICK
ISBN 978-88-530-0610-3
BLACK CAT PUBLISHING
BLACK CAT CIDEB

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Design and art direction: Nadia Maestri
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an imprint of Cideb Editrice, Genoa, Canterbury

First edition: April 2007

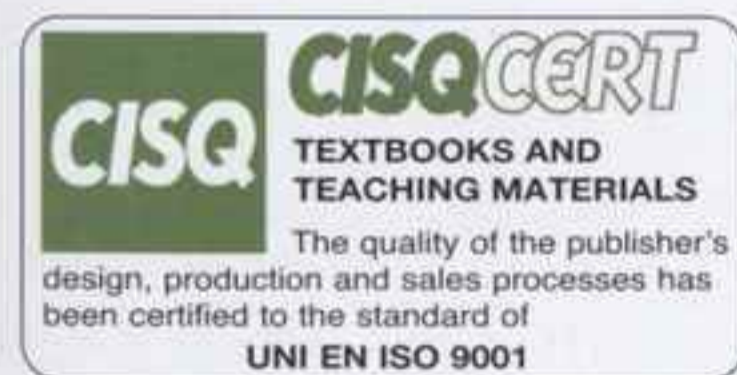
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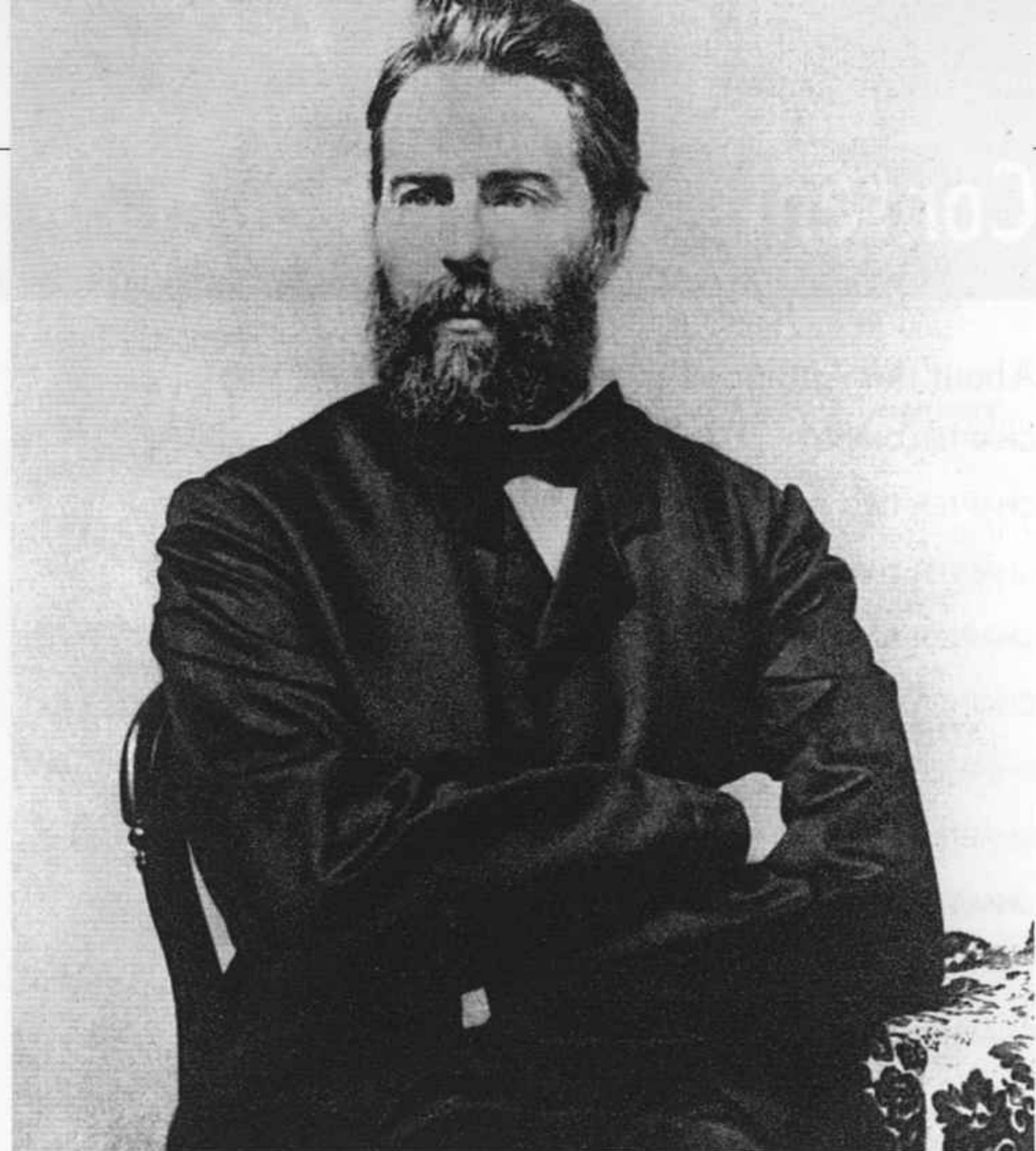
Printed in Italy by Litoprint, Genoa

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This story is recorded in full.

 These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages
 linked to the listening activities.



A photograph of **Herman Melville** taken in the 1860s.

About the Author

Melville was born on August 19, 1819 in New York City and grew up there with his seven brothers and sisters. His family was wealthy and descended from the early colonial families of New York. He had a happy childhood, but when he was only twelve his father went bankrupt and died soon after. Melville never forgot the tragedy of his father's death.

In 1839, unable to find satisfactory work on land, Melville went to

sea as a cabin boy on the British ship *St Lawrence*. He crossed the Atlantic to Liverpool and then returned to America. Life was difficult but the excitement of life at sea attracted him, and in 1841 he went to sea on the whaling ship the *Acushnet*. The cruelty of the ship's officers and the terrible living conditions caused Melville and a friend to desert¹ the ship on the island of Nukahiva in the South Pacific in July 1842.

After a month among the cannibals of the island, Melville escaped on an Australian whaler which took him to Tahiti. There he was imprisoned temporarily. After a month on the nearby island of Moorea, he went to work on the Nantucket whaler *Charles and Henry* until April 1843. Then, after spending almost six months in Honolulu, he decided to become a sailor on the *United States* but when the ship finally arrived in Boston in 1844 he left it and decided not to go to sea any more.

In 1846 he began his career as a writer with *Typee*, which gave an exciting account of the natives he met during his stay on the island of Nukahiva. *Omoo*, a novel based on his life in Tahiti, was published in 1847. Both books were very successful.

White Jacket, a strong protest against the punishments in the U. S. Navy, appeared in 1850, and shocked many readers. Soon the U. S. Congress passed a law which banned certain types of punishment, and Melville became a very popular and respected writer.

He married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Shaw in 1847 and they moved to Pittsfield, Massachusetts, where he became a friend of another famous American writer, Nathaniel Hawthorne. This was a very important friendship for Melville.

1. **desert** : to leave without permission.

After sixteen months of hard work, Melville completed his masterpiece *Moby Dick* in 1851, and dedicated it to Hawthorne. In spite of the greatness of this work, most people did not understand or like it, and Melville's popularity began to decline. This was a difficult time for him because he started to have debts and he had a family to support.



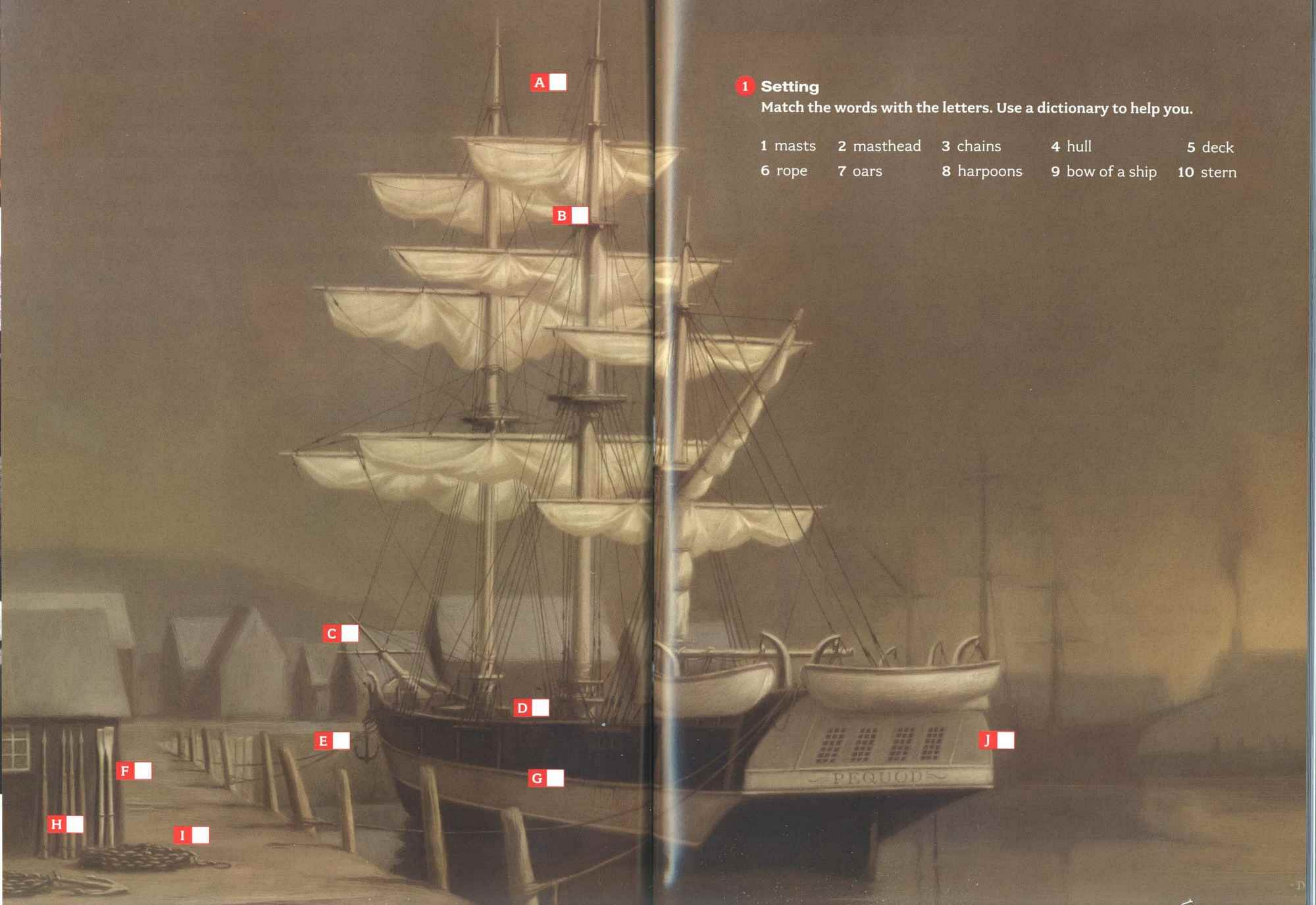
Gregory Peck as **Captain Ahab** in John Huston's 1956 film version of *Moby Dick*.

In 1866 he began working as a United States customs inspector at New York City harbor. When he retired in 1885 he wrote the short novel *Billy Budd*, which was published in 1924, long after his death. Melville died on September 28, 1891. Thirty years after his death Americans began reading his works again and he became recognized as a literary genius. His representation of life was powerful and realistic and he was aware of the many social problems of his time. He attacked slavery, war and the abuse of immigrants. In his works he showed man's tragic efforts in fighting against fate and evil. He had a deep understanding of the human mind and soul. Some of Melville's other works include: *Mardi* (1849), *Pierre* (1852), *Israel Potter* (1855), and *The Piazza Tales* (1856). Melville was also an excellent poet. He privately published his poetry in *Battle-Pieces* (1866), *Clarel* (1876) and *John Marr and Other Sailors* (1888). Herman Melville is one of America's greatest writers. His novel *Moby Dick* continues to appear on lists of the 100 best books ever written.

1 Comprehension check

Answer the following questions.

- 1 Where and when was Melville born?
- 2 What was the sad event of Melville's youth?
- 3 What was Melville's first experience at sea?
- 4 What was the *Acushnet*?
- 5 How long was Melville a sailor?
- 6 How did Melville react to the punishments of sailors aboard the *United States*?
- 7 What is *Typee* about?
- 8 How long did it take for *Moby Dick* to be appreciated as a masterpiece?



1 Setting

Match the words with the letters. Use a dictionary to help you.

- | | | | | |
|---------|------------|------------|-----------------|----------|
| 1 masts | 2 masthead | 3 chains | 4 hull | 5 deck |
| 6 rope | 7 oars | 8 harpoons | 9 bow of a ship | 10 stern |

A

B

C

D

E

F

H

I

G

J

Before you read

1 Listening

FCE Listen to the beginning of Chapter One. You will hear about Ishmael, a young sailor, and why he wants to go to sea. For questions 1-6, complete the sentences.

- 1 When Ishmael feels depressed, he realises that he should
- 2 Ishmael sees no good reason why he should to travel on a ship.
- 3 Ishmael believes that cleaning a ship's decks is
- 4 Ishmael doesn't care if he has to a sea captain.
- 5 Ishmael believes that it is a good idea the other sailors on a ship.
- 6 The main thing that attracts Ishmael about the sea is

2 Reading pictures

Look at the picture on page 15 and answer the following questions.

- 1 What kind of person do you think this character is? Kind? Shy? Dangerous? Other?
- 2 Where do you think he is from?
- 3 Would you mind sharing a hotel room with him? Why or why not?
- 4 Invent a name for this character and then report your ideas to the class.

3 Vocabulary

Match the words with the pictures. Use your dictionary if you want.

- 1 coffin 2 sign 3 fish hooks 4 lock of hair



A



B



C




D

CHAPTER ONE

The Spouter Inn



- 0** Call me Ishmael. Some years ago I set out to sea, having little money and nothing particularly interesting to do on shore. I thought I would sail around the world. Whenever I feel like a cold, wet November morning, and I start following funerals, then I know it's time to go back to the wide open sea. It always makes me feel better because the sea is magic – it has always been magic. It is an endless source of life and mystery.
- 1** When I go to sea I always go as a simple sailor and never as a passenger. Why should I pay when I can get paid for my work? I certainly don't mind taking orders from an old sea captain. And if I have to clean the decks, or mend a sail, so what? It's good, honest work and I don't mind it.
- 2** The men you meet at sea are both good and bad, and I always try to get along with them. It's wise to be friendly with the people you have to live with on a ship.
- 3** But the main reason I want to go to sea is the great whale.

I want to be with those who hunt this mysterious monster. 

I put a shirt or two into my bag and left for New Bedford, Massachusetts — that's where you go to find a whaling ship. I didn't know much about the town and it was late and cold when I arrived. I walked up and down the dark streets, looking for a place to stay.

- 4 Finally I saw a small light near the docks and an old sign swinging back and forth in the cold wind of the night.

The Spouter Inn-Peter Coffin. Coffin? What a name for an inn-keeper! But it was a cold night and I had nowhere else to go.

The inn was a strange, old place and one part of it leaned to one side. I stood there looking at it for a while. Oh, stop worrying, I thought, you're going whaling soon and that's a hard life! So I entered the Spouter Inn.

It was a small, dark place and the wind howled¹ through the old building. The first thing I saw was an old painting of a ship in a storm, and a giant whale jumping out of the water. It was trying to destroy the ship.

The other sailors in the inn sat at a long table, drinking and talking. I found the landlord, Peter Coffin, and asked him for a room.

- 5 "Sorry," he said, "but there's nothing left. Every bed is taken — but if you don't mind sharing a bed with a harpooner, then you have a bed."

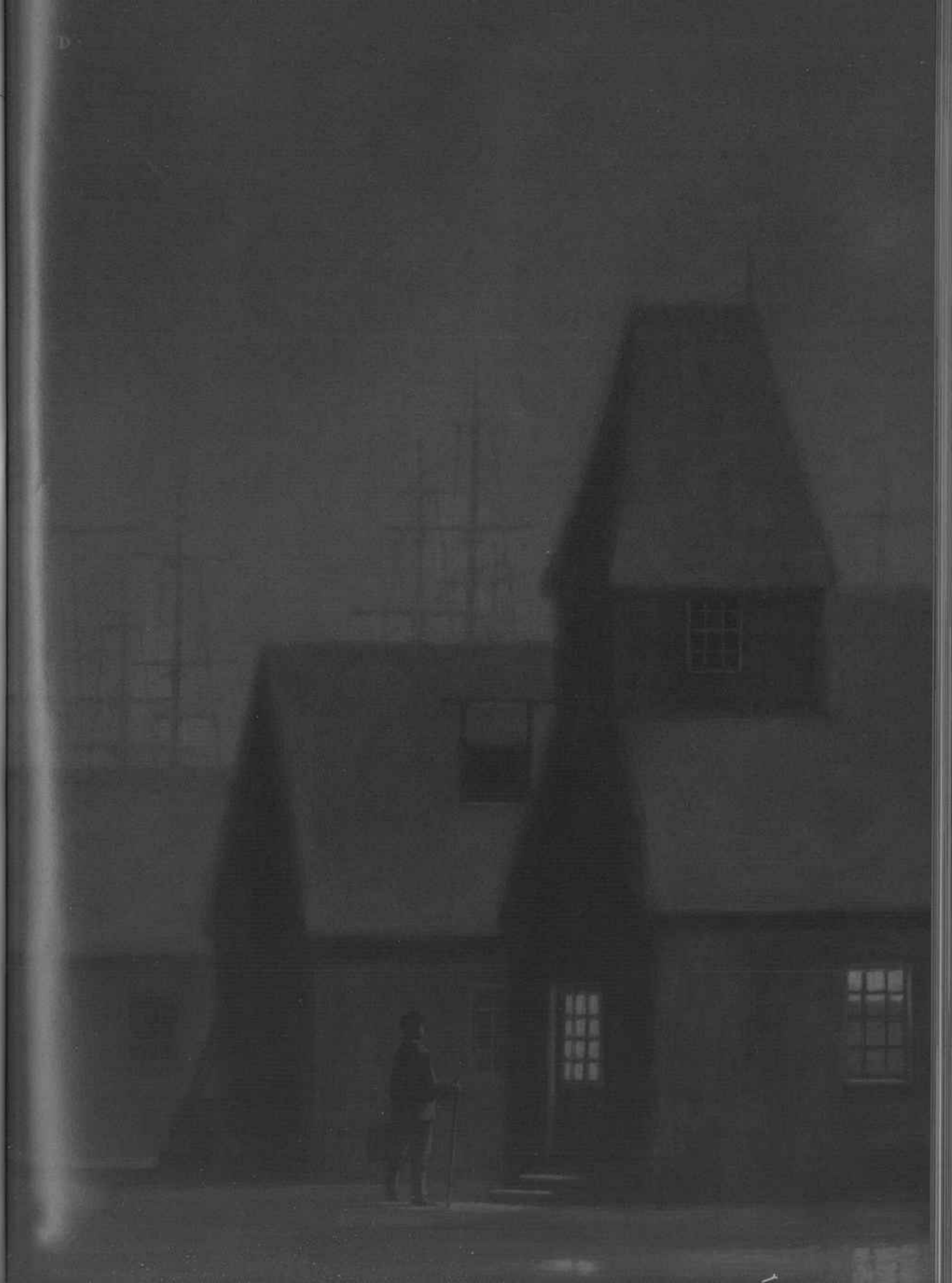
"Who is he?" I asked nervously.

"He's not here now," said the landlord, "but if you're going whaling, you had better get used to this sort of thing."

"Well, alright," I replied, "I'll share a bed with any decent man."

"Good," said the landlord. "You want some dinner? Just sit down and it'll be ready soon."

1. **howled** : the sound wolves make; (here) the sound of the wind blowing loudly through the building.



I sat down in the cold inn and waited for dinner. There was no fire and no heat — just a few candles. The landlord said he couldn't afford wood.

After dinner I wanted to go to bed, but I was worried about the harpooner I didn't know.

"What kind of man is this harpooner?" I asked the landlord. "Why isn't he here?"

"Oh, he's out trying to sell his head."

"What!" I said, thinking it was a joke.

The landlord and the other sailors started laughing.

"He's sold the other four already and now he's trying to sell the fifth. Maybe he's a cannibal¹ — I don't know, but he pays on time and that's all I care about."

I was very tired and not interested in nonsense. I just wanted to go to bed, so I went up to the harpooner's room, which was cold and dark. The man's things were all over the room — a huge harpoon, an old sailor's bag and fish hooks.

6 Who was this man?

I got into bed and tried to sleep but the mattress was terribly uncomfortable. I soon heard the door open and saw a huge man with a candle in one hand and a human head in the other — so this was the harpooner.

The light of the candle lit up his face and I was very surprised — I suddenly felt cold. I had never seen anyone like him before. His skin was a purplish yellow, and his face and body were covered with strange tattoos. There was no hair on his head except for a single lock of black hair. I'm not a coward but I

1. **cannibal** : a person who eats the meat of dead humans.



immediately thought of running out the door or jumping out the window. I was so scared that I thought the devil himself had entered the room that night.

- 7 The harpooner got undressed, lit a small fire and said some kind of prayer to an evil-looking black doll he had pulled out of his pocket. Then he got into bed.

"Who you?"¹ cried the harpooner in a deep voice, lifting his tomahawk.² "What you do in my bed? I kill you!"

"Peter Coffin! Help me!" I shouted. "Save me!"

After a moment Peter Coffin came into the room and said, "Don't worry, Queequeg won't hurt you." Then he turned to Queequeg and said, "This man is sharing the bed with you tonight, understand?"

Queequeg was suddenly calm and put down his tomahawk saying, "Me tired. Don't speak now."

He seemed quiet and fell asleep immediately. I felt that I had nothing to be afraid of. After all, he was a clean, peaceful cannibal, and it was better to sleep with a sober³ cannibal than with a drunk Christian. I turned over and fell asleep. I never slept better in my life.

1. **Who you?** : Queequeg has not learned a standard form of English.

2. **tomahawk** :



3. **sober** : not drunk.

The text and **beyond**

1 Summary

Chapter One has been divided into seven parts. Choose from the list A-I the sentence which best summarises each part (1-7) of the chapter. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- A Ishmael goes to see the king of the sea.
 B Ishmael never buys a ticket.
 C The inn is not a cheerful place.
 D Ismael prefers paying to travel.
 E Queequeg may be from hell.
 F Going to sea chases away sadness.
 G Ishmael has a good relationship with everybody.
 H People are sometimes better than they seem.
 I What Peter Coffin said about the harpooner was no reason to lose sleep.

2 Comprehension check

Answer the following questions.

- How does Ishmael describe his feelings of depression and the sea?
- What was disturbing about the inn-keeper's name?
- What are the two possible meanings of the sentence "He's out trying to sell his head"? What is its meaning here?
- What kind of sailor was Ishmael's roommate?
- How did Ishmael react when he first sees his roommate?
- What did Ishmael's roommate do when he saw Ishmael?

3 Sweet dreams

Better sleep with a sober cannibal than a drunken Christian.

This is one of the most famous sentences of *Moby Dick*. Which of the following do you think best explains its meaning?

- Christians drink more than cannibals.
- Never sleep with somebody who is drunk.
- Judge people by their actions, not by their religion.
- Even bad people can do good things.

T: GRADE 7

4 Speaking: fashion

Queequeg certainly surprised Ishmael. But today a man with a shaved head, earrings and tattoos is considered fashionable.



Give a short talk about what kind of clothing young people wear today, and what kind of clothing your parents wore when they were young. Use these questions to help you.

- 1 What things do you or other young people wear that your parents didn't?
- 2 Are there any things you wear now that your parents wore when they were young?
- 3 What things do adults now find shocking about young people's clothing, hair styles or body art?
- 4 Are there different groups of young people today that can be recognised by what they wear? What are they?
- 5 Do you think it is a bad thing to try to follow the fashions?
- 6 How do you choose what you wear?

'You had better get used to this sort of thing.'

Look at these sentences to understand the meaning of **to be used to** and **to get used to**.

Ishmael has sailed on a ship as a common sailor.

*He **is used to** taking orders.*

= It is normal for Ishmael to take orders.

*Herman went on his first ocean journey. At first, it was strange for him **not to see** any land for days and days. Then he **got used to not seeing** land.*

= It became normal for him not to see land.

Notice that we use the **-ing** form of the verb after **to be used to** and **to get used to**.

5 *To be used to* and *to get used to*

Read this conversation between Ishmael and a veteran harpooner. Remember Ishmael has already worked as a sailor, but he has never worked on a whaling ship. Fill in the gaps with the words in the square and *be* or *get used to*.

work not see be close work take orders

Harpooner: I hope that you (1) very hard. The captains of whaling ships are very severe.

Ishmael: Oh, that's no problem. I (2)

Harpooner: Whaling ships stay at sea much longer than other kinds of ships.

Ishmael: I have already sailed and I am certain that I (3) land for long periods.

Harpooner: I still find it very frightening being close to whales!

Ishmael: Well, perhaps I (4) to them either.

Harpooner: Another thing, on a whaling ship everybody has to work together.

Ishmael: I (5) with others.

Before you read

1 Reading pictures

- A Look at the picture on page 23. It shows the pulpit in a church, where the priest speaks from. What is unusual about it? Why do you think the pulpit has this shape?
- B Look at the picture on page 27. Describe the man who is talking to Ishmael and Queequeg. His name is Elijah (which is also the name of a famous Biblical prophet). He is telling Ishmael about a whaling ship that Ishmael has chosen. What do you think he is saying?

2 Listening

You will hear about what Ishmael and Queequeg do the next morning. For questions 1-5, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

- What is peculiar about the way Queequeg shaves?
 - He uses an extremely large knife.
 - He shaves without a mirror.
 - He uses his harpoon.
- How did Captain Hardy die?
 - He went down with his ship.
 - A harpooner killed him.
 - A whale killed him.
- When Ishmael reads about Captain Hardy he wonders if
 - he will some day travel to distant places to hunt whales.
 - he will die in the same way.
 - he will ever be a captain.
- What was Father Mapple's first job?
 - whaler
 - inn-keeper
 - cook
- Ishmael thought that the subject of Father Mapple's sermon was
 - very comforting.
 - well chosen for whalers.
 - not particularly appropriate for whalers.

CHAPTER TWO

The Pequod



Bright sunlight entered the room the next morning and I could hear the sound of carriages and people outside. Queequeg was shaving with the head of his harpoon. I thought this was very strange, but later I learned that harpoons were very sharp.

Queequeg did not say much but he was gentle and polite, and we soon felt like old friends. We went down to breakfast together and saw many other whalers having breakfast. I had some bread and butter with a cup of hot coffee, but Queequeg only ate beef steaks, and plenty of them.

After breakfast I wanted to go to church. I didn't think Queequeg was interested in going to church. But, to my surprise, when I got to the chapel Queequeg was there.

Almost every sailor visits the Whaleman's Chapel before sailing. As we waited for the reverend¹ I read some of the

1. **reverend** : an officially appointed religious leader.

memorials to sailors lost at sea. They all began with “Sacred to the memory of...”

I read one memorial that made me tremble:

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE
CAPTAIN EZEKIEL HARDY,
WHO WAS KILLED BY A SPERM WHALE
OFF THE COAST OF JAPAN,
AUGUST 3RD, 1833.

I wanted to hunt and kill whales, but I didn’t want whales to hunt and kill me. Would I have the same fate as Captain Hardy?

I was pleased to see the reverend go to the pulpit. It was a strange pulpit because it was built like the bow of a ship, and the reverend climbed up to it on a rope ladder. Father Mapple was the reverend's name and he was loved by all the whalers. He had been a whaler himself many years ago when he was younger.

Today his sermon was about Jonah, who was swallowed by a whale — very appropriate, I thought — and frightening.

END

We returned to the Spouter Inn and sat in front of a warm fire. I sat there watching Queequeg thoughtfully. In spite of his strange color and tattooed face and body, he was a dignified, pleasant person. You can’t hide a man’s soul, and under all those tattoos I could see a simple, honest heart and a kind soul. Here was a man far away from home in a world so different from his own, who was serene and peaceful. He looked wild and yet I began to feel mysteriously attracted towards him. I’ll try a pagan friend, I thought, since Christian friends were often quite disappointing.

I asked Queequeg about himself and he told me that he was a



native of Kokovoko, an island in the South Pacific. He was related to the royal family there. But he did not want to be a king one day — he wanted a life of adventure. He decided to join a whaling ship that was visiting the island, and one night he left home and went on board the ship.

He learned many things about life at sea and became an excellent harpooner after sailing around the world three times. After living with Christians he also learned that they could be as bad as the people they were trying to convert.

We felt true affection for each other and became good friends — Ishmael, Queequeg and Yojo, his little black idol.

The next morning we took a boat to the port of Nantucket because that was where we could sign up¹ with a whaling ship. Choosing a whaling ship was an important decision because we would be at sea for the next three years. Queequeg was not worried about choosing the right ship. He said his little black idol told him that it was my responsibility.

At the port there were three ships to choose from. There was the *Devil-Dam* — not a good name. Then there was the *Tit-Bit*, but I chose the *Pequod*, named after an old Indian tribe of Massachusetts.

“Look at that old ship,” I said to Queequeg. “It’s a noble ship! It’s *our* ship!”

Queequeg simply nodded² and we went aboard to sign up. We met a tough-looking young man.

“Ahoy!”³ I said. “Are you the captain of the ship?”

1. **sign up** : write your name on a work contract.

2. **nodded** : moved his head up and down to say “yes”.

3. **ahoy** : greeting used by sailors.

“No!” answered the young man. “I’m the first mate¹ of this ship. My name’s Starbuck. What do you want?”

“My friend and I want to sign up.”

“Have you ever been whaling?” he asked.

“No, but I’ve been to sea many times, and I want to see what whaling is like.”

“You want to see what whaling is like, eh?” he asked, looking at me carefully. “Alright, you’ll do.”

“But shouldn’t I talk to the captain?” I asked.

“Captain Ahab...,” he said with a half-smile, “there’s plenty of time to get to know him. You’ll know him as soon as you see him because he has only one leg. The other one was torn off and eaten by the most monstrous whale of the sea.”

“What did that whale do?” I asked nervously.

“You heard me,” he said, “and it killed many men.”

“What’s Captain Ahab like?” I asked.

“He’s a strange man, but a good one,” said the first mate. “He doesn’t speak much but when he does you’d better listen.”

“Yes, sir,” I replied. “And what about my friend?”

The first mate looked at him with doubtful eyes. “He’s a strange fellow — looks like a pagan.”

“Things aren’t always what they seem,” I said. “I know him, he’s a good, strong man.”

Then Queequeg took his harpoon and pointed to a small piece of wood floating in the sea. His strong arm threw the harpoon and hit it.

The first mate was amazed and said, “Quick! Sign him up!

1. **mate** : an officer on a merchant ship.

Quick!" He knew how valuable a good harpooner was on a whaling ship.

Queequeg and I were now happy. We were about to start an exciting adventure at sea hunting giant whales.

While we were walking around the docks, we met a crazy old man. As we walked by him he took my arm and said, "You were on the *Pequod*. Have you met Captain Ahab yet?"

"No," I said, surprised.

"Have you signed up?"

"Yes, we have, but what do you know about Ahab?"

The crazy old man shook his head and said, "Well, what's done is done. There's no turning back now — but that ship is doomed,¹ doomed! Haven't you seen the demons² he keeps in the hold³ of the ship?"

"Doomed? The demons?" I said laughing. "What are you saying? You're crazy, old man."

He looked at us with his wild eyes and said softly, "God have mercy on you."

What nonsense, I told myself, as Queequeg and I hurried away. I turned around and asked, "But who are you?"

"I'm Elijah!" he said.

The name of a prophet, I thought nervously. But I pushed the man and his prophecy out of my mind. This was going to be an exciting voyage, a chance to see the world and hunt whales. That old fool wasn't going to ruin things for me.

1. **doomed** : condemned to a terrible future of death and destruction.

2. **demons** : unnatural, frightening men.

3. **hold** : part of a ship below the deck.



The text and **beyond****1 Comprehension check**

Connect the beginnings in column A with the endings in column B. There are four endings in column B that you do not need to use.

A

- 1 Queequeg did not become a king
- 2 Ishmael and Queequeg spent all their time together
- 3 Ishmael and Queequeg left New Bedford
- 4 Queequeg let Ishmael select their ship
- 5 Ahab could be recognised
- 6 Starbuck did not know if he wanted to sign up Queequeg
- 7 Starbuck soon decided to sign up Queequeg
- 8 Ishmael decided not to pay attention to Elijah's prophecy

B

- A because he was a Christian.
- B because he was the man who gave all the orders.
- C because he saw how well he could throw a harpoon.
- D because Yojo told him to do so.
- E because they had become quite fond of each other.
- F because they had the same bedroom.
- G because he had travelled around the world three times.
- H because he wanted to enjoy his adventure aboard the *Pequod*.
- I because he was obviously not a Christian.
- J because he wanted to travel and do exciting things.
- K because he had only one leg.
- L because they couldn't join the crew of a whaling ship there.

FCE 2 Jonah, who was swallowed by a whale

You are going to read a short version of the story of Jonah from the Bible. Five sentences have been removed. Choose from the sentences A-F the one which fits each gap (1-4). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

God says to Jonah, "Go to the city of Nineveh, and tell the people there that I know about all their bad actions."

- 0 F He gets on a ship that is going to the city of Tarshish. God becomes angry and sends a terrible storm. The sailors on the ship discover that Jonah has caused God's anger.
- 1 God sends a huge fish that swallows Jonah. Inside the stomach of this monster, he prays to God for forgiveness.
- 2 Once again God tells Jonah to go to Nineveh. This time Jonah goes to Nineveh. He tells the people that God will destroy their evil city in forty days. Everybody in the city becomes sorry for their bad actions.
- 3 Jonah becomes angry at God because he did not punish the people of Nineveh. Jonah then goes outside the city to see what will happen. It is very hot and God causes a plant to grow over Jonah to protect him from the sun. Jonah is happy about this. Later, God causes this plant to die.
- 4 God speaks to Jonah again and say, "You are worried about a plant, but you do not care about a large city full of many people and animals."
- A God listens to Jonah's prayers and has the huge fish vomit Jonah onto the dry land.
- B So, God finally destroys the people of Nineveh and all its thousands of people.
- C God decides to save the people of Nineveh.
- D Jonah becomes extremely hot in the sun and wishes to die.
- E They throw him into the sea, and the storm stops.
- F But Jonah does not want to go to Nineveh and decides to run away from God.

3 Discussion

Why is the story of Jonah so appropriate for whalers? What does this story tell us about trying to escape from God? Who is more compassionate, God or Jonah?

4 Moby Dick and the Bible

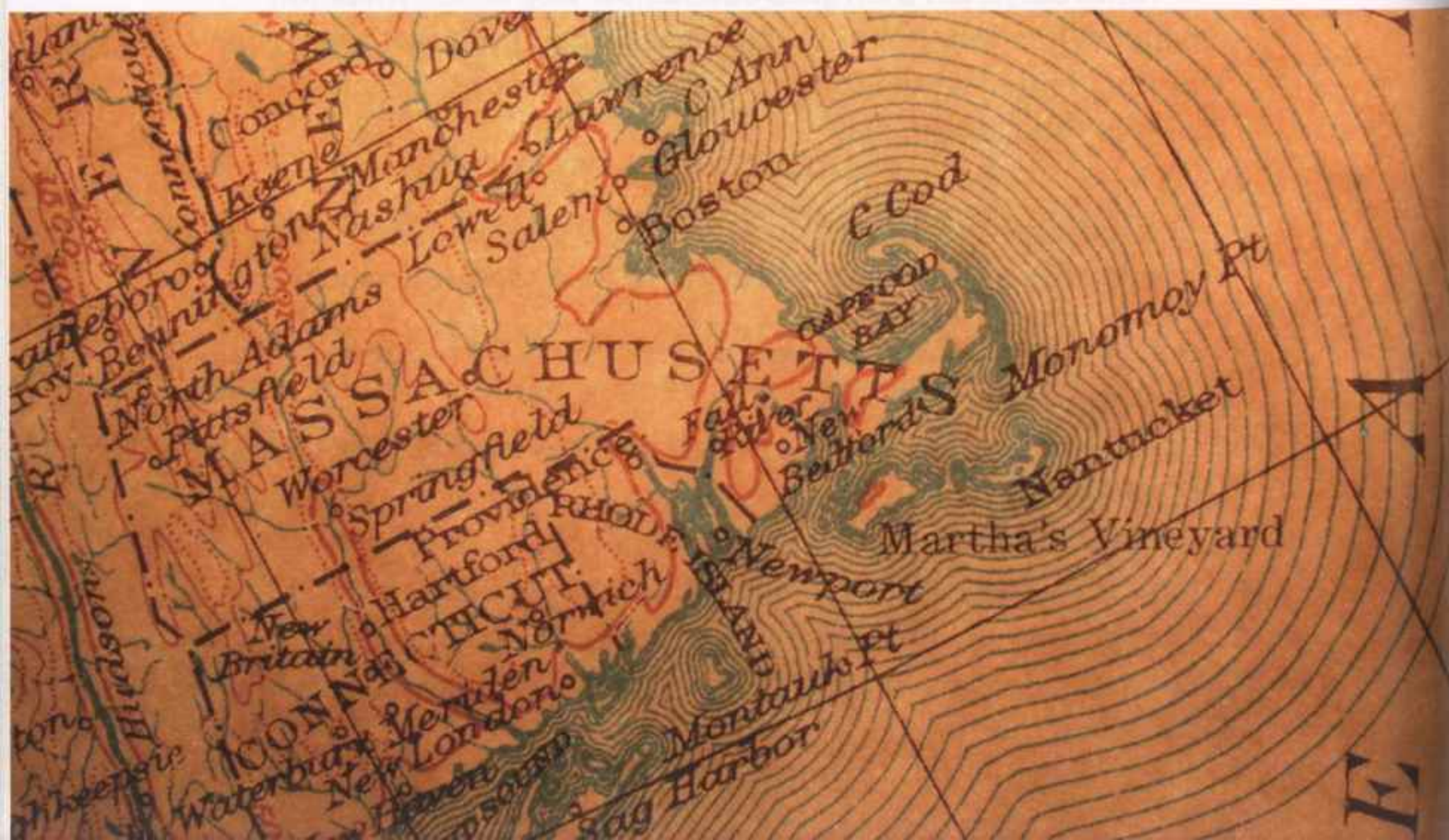
Moby Dick is full of references to the Bible. The first example is the name of the narrator himself, Ishmael. Ishmael, in the Bible, was one of the sons of Abraham. He symbolises an outcast, that is, a person sent away on his own. Then in this chapter we hear about Ahab, Jonah and Elijah – all three important figures in the Bible. Use the Internet to help you answer these questions.

- 1 Who was Ahab?
- 2 Who was Elijah?
- 3 What did Ahab do that made Elijah angry?

5 Reading maps

Circle the following places on the map.

Martha's Vineyard Cape Cod Boston Nantucket New Bedford
Providence Massachusetts Rhode Island Connecticut



INTERNET PROJECT

Planning a holiday

Nantucket is one of the top vacation spots in the United States. Connect to the Internet and go to www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. Insert the title of the book into our search engine. Open the page for *Moby Dick*. Click on the Internet project link. Go down the page until you find the title of this book and click on the relevant links for this project. Using the suggested Internet sites, plan a holiday with your partner and then report your plans to the class.

Say:

- ▶ where you will stay
- ▶ what sporting or leisure activities you will do
- ▶ where you would like to eat
- ▶ when you will go



Before you read

4 1 Listening

Fill in the gaps with the words in the square. Then listen to the beginning of Chapter Three to check your answers.

clean on do mend off sail whole owned


The *Pequod* was scheduled to (1) on Christmas Day, and there was a lot of work to (2) before. We were getting ready for a three-year voyage. There were supplies to load – beef, bread, and water – sails to (3) and decks to (4)


Ships like the *Pequod* were not (5) by one rich man or by the captain. They were owned by (6) towns – by old sailors, widows, reverends, shopkeepers, school teachers – each person owned a small part of the ship. So when a ship like the *Pequod* went (7) to sea the voyage had to be a success because the livelihood of many people depended (8) it.

CHAPTER THREE

Captain Ahab



The *Pequod* was scheduled to sail on Christmas Day, and there was a lot of work to do before. We were getting ready for a three-year voyage. There were supplies to load – beef, bread, and water – sails to mend and decks to clean. 

Ships like the *Pequod* were not owned by one rich man or by the captain. They were owned by whole towns – by old sailors, widows, reverends, shopkeepers, schoolteachers – each person owned a small part of the ship. So when a ship like the *Pequod* went off to sea the voyage had to be a success because the livelihood¹ of many people depended on it. 

During these days Queequeg and I often visited the ship, and I always asked about Captain Ahab. But I never saw him. Starbuck, the first mate, said he was ill, but he was slowly getting better.

1. **livelihood** : source of money.

We sailed from Nantucket on a cold Christmas morning, and I had still not seen the mysterious Captain Ahab. The longer he stayed in his cabin and remained invisible, the greater our surprise and curiosity. We heard him, though. At night as we were swinging in our hammocks¹ trying to sleep, we could hear Captain Ahab walking up and down on the deck above us. He made a strange sound when he walked because he had a peg leg.²

One night I heard Starbuck say, “Why don’t you rest, Captain? My men can’t sleep with the noise of your peg leg.”

Ahab’s answer was loud and clear, “Why should they sleep? Do I sleep? The sound of my leg will make them dream about whales.”

I didn’t know what to think, but the words of the crazy old man Elijah kept coming back to me.

Starbuck was a Quaker³ from Nantucket, and a good, honest man. He was tall and quite thin, but very strong. If you looked into his eyes, you could see all the dangers he had faced in his life at sea. He was a quiet individual who faced dangers calmly, and he was patient and understanding with his men.

“I won’t have a man on my ship who isn’t afraid of a whale,” he often said.

He knew what enormous damage a whale could do. He didn’t want heroes on the *Pequod* – he only wanted good men who were aware of their opponent’s strength. He knew from experience that a fearless man was more dangerous than a coward.

1. **hammocks** :



2. **peg leg** :



3. **Quaker** : a Christian religious group that is against violence.

Stubb, the second mate, was a cheerful man from Cape Cod, who laughed at everything. Even while chasing a whale, he remained calm and relaxed. His pipe was never far from his lips and he kept a dozen of them near his hammock.

Flask, a short, robust young man from Martha's Vineyard, was the third mate. For him whale hunting was a big joke, and the whale was just like an enormous water rat. Flask had fun chasing whales around the world.

Starbuck, Stubb and Flask were much more than just mates on the *Pequod*. If Ahab had been a mediaeval king, they would have been his knights, and the harpooners would have been his squires.¹

Each mate commanded his own whale boat with sailors when he went out to chase the great whales. And each mate could choose his own harpooner. Starbuck chose Queequeg as his personal harpooner.

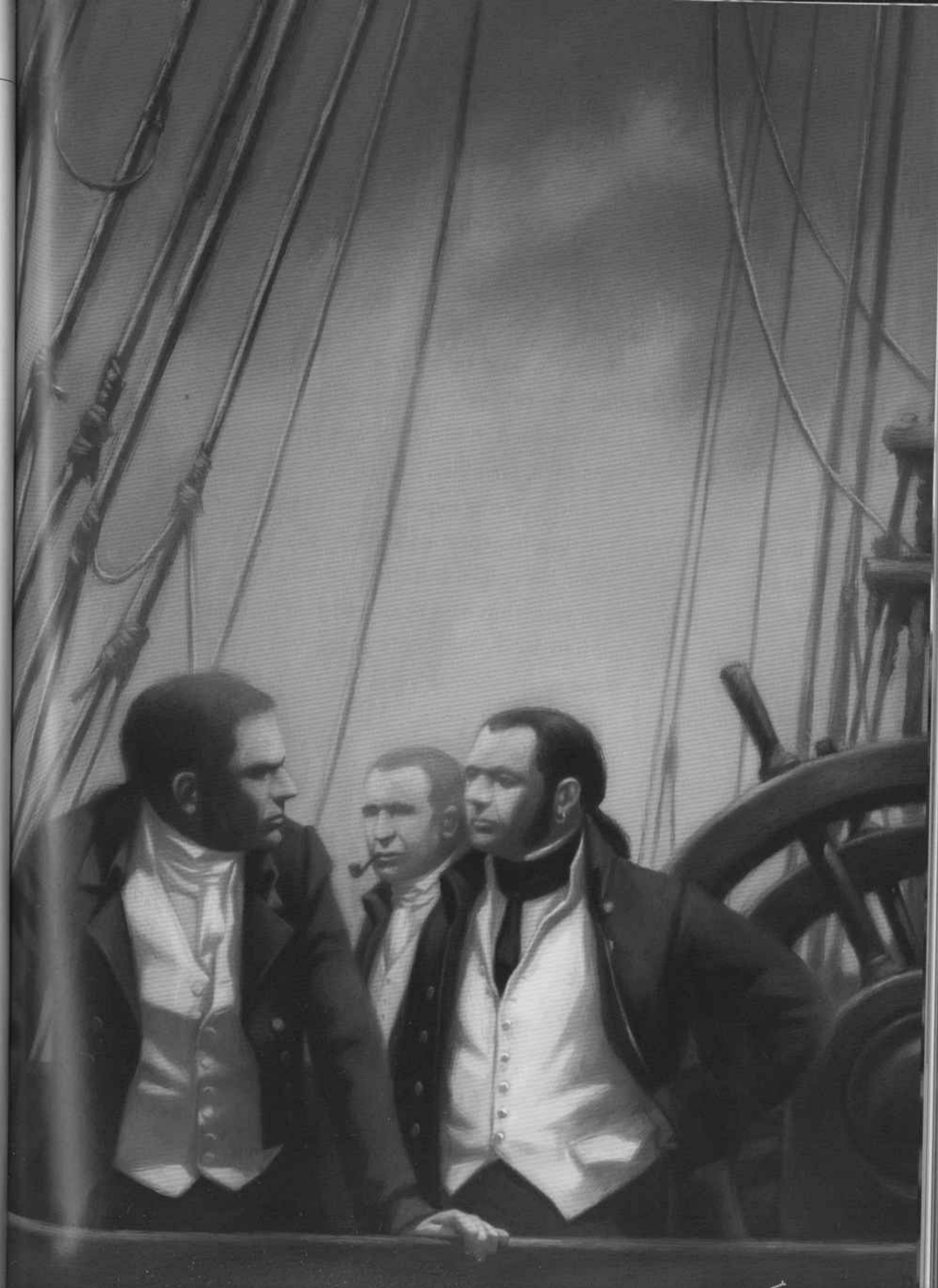
Tashtego, a strong, muscular American Indian from Martha's Vineyard, was Stubb's chosen harpooner. He had long, black, shiny hair and came from a tribe of great hunters. He had replaced his bow and arrow with a harpoon.

The third harpooner was called Daggoo, a gigantic black man, who wore a huge gold earring in each ear. His physical power was impressive.

The other members of the crew came from all over the world — from the Azores, Greenland, the Shetland Islands and Wales.

And so we set off on Christmas morning, thinking about what would happen during this long, three-year voyage. I was proud to

1. **squires** : young assistants of a knight.



be on the *Pequod* with these brave whalers and happy to be learning this honorable profession.

Several days passed as we sailed through the icy, dark waters of the North Atlantic. But we had not seen Captain Ahab yet; he remained in his cabin.

Then one morning I looked up at the deck and there he was. Captain Ahab, at last! His tall, strong body looked like it was made of bronze. He was all dressed in black except for his white peg leg — a grim¹ figure. His face, wrinkled² after years of sun, wind and sea water, was long and without expression. It was ruined too by a long scar³ that ran from his forehead, down his cheek and neck, and disappeared under his collar. Did the scar go all the way to his feet? There were rumors that the scar had been made during a battle at sea. I learned that the ship's carpenter had made the peg leg from the bone of a sperm whale.

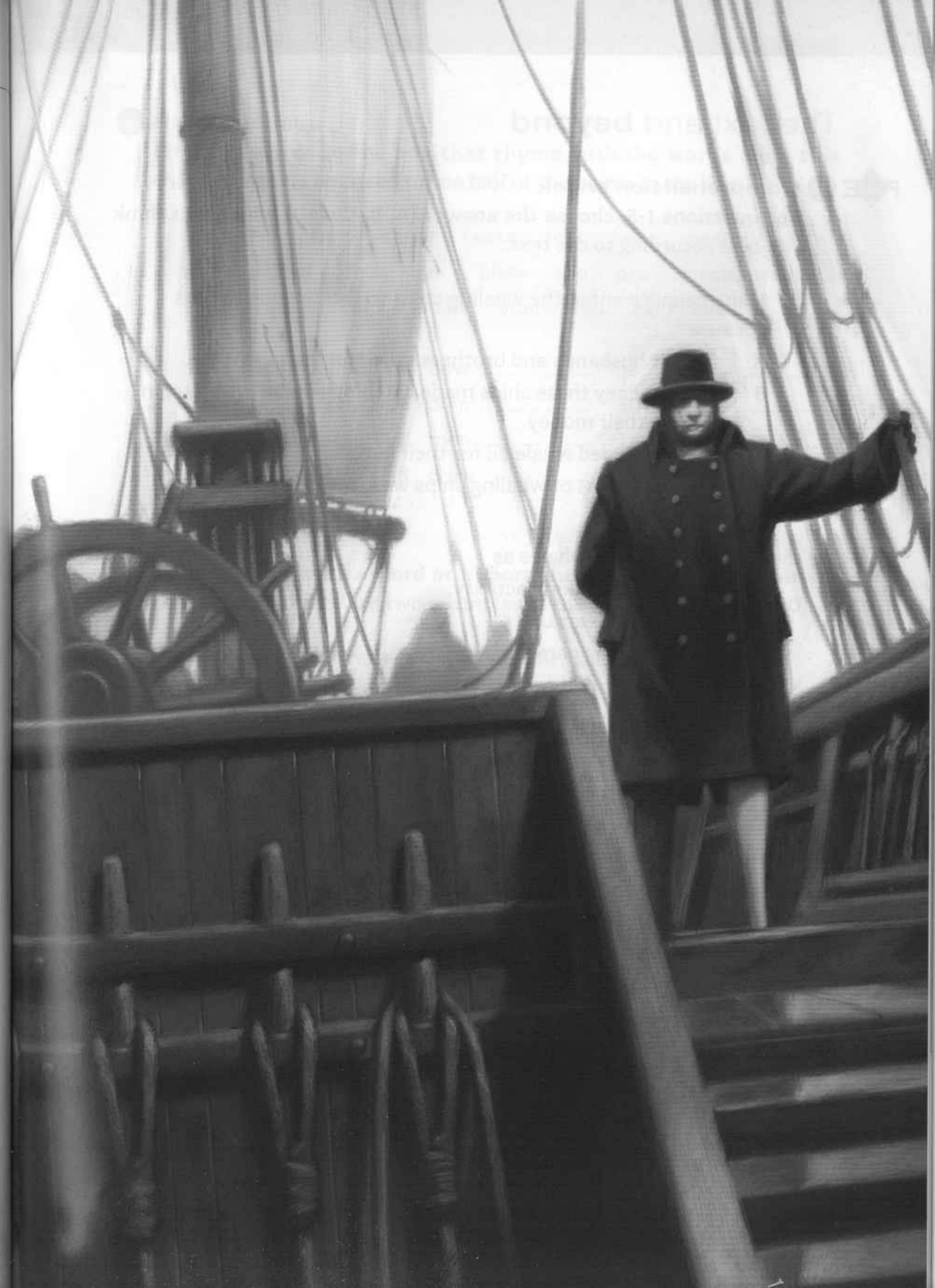
Ahab placed his peg leg in a special hole on the quarterdeck. This kept him balanced when the ship was in rough waters. In spite of his peg leg, Captain Ahab stood straight and looked ahead. His face showed immense pain.

He spoke to no one and no one spoke to him. After standing for a while on the deck he went back to his cabin. As the weather got better, and the ice and icebergs were behind us, we saw more and more of our captain. When we started sailing in tropical waters, the hard, icy expression on his face seemed to melt.

1. **grim** : serious, hard and frightening.

2. **wrinkled** : with many deep lines.

3. **scar** :



The text and **beyond**

FCE 1 Comprehension check

For questions 1-5, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

- 1 Many people wanted the whaling ships to catch many whales because
 - A their husbands and brothers sailed on them.
 - B the money these ships made catching whales was also, in part, their money.
 - C they needed whale oil for their lamps.
 - D the captains of whaling ships were important people in towns.

- 2 Flask saw hunting whales as
 - A a money-making activity.
 - B a noble adventure.
 - C an amusing game.
 - D a difficult and terrifying job.

- 3 We learn that Starbuck
 - A only cares about making money.
 - B is practical and is interested in his men.
 - C does not respect his captain.
 - D likes hunting whales more than anything else.

- 4 Ishmael compares the mates to
 - A great kings from the past.
 - B American Indian hunters.
 - C African hunters.
 - D great soldiers from the past.

- 5 In this chapter we learn that Ahab
 - A is not afraid of whales.
 - B thinks that catching whales is very enjoyable.
 - C has suffered much and has had a great deal of experience.
 - D can choose the harpooners he wants for his ship.

2 Rhyming pairs

Find the words in the box that rhyme with the words from this chapter. You do not need to use half of the words in the box.

bird stair knew tease folk bone neared
 said paired dock our blow too pen mean noun
 sighs paid whale your tall car cow

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1 sailwhale..... | 5 bow | 9 wore |
| 2 aware | 6 own | 10 eyes |
| 3 joke | 7 men | 11 beard |
| 4 heard | 8 crew | 12 afraid |

3 Summary

Fill in the gaps with a word or a short phrase to make a summary of Chapters 1-3. There are two examples at the beginning (0) and (00).

Ishmael was feeling rather (0) *depressed* so he decided to (00) *go to sea as a sailor* on a whaling ship. He went to the town of New Bedford. There, he stopped at the Spouter Inn (1) The inn-keeper told him that all the beds (2), so he had (3) a bed with a harpooner. This harpooner was not in then. He was out (4) This made Ishmael a little worried, but he decided to stay anyway. That evening when Ishmael was already in bed, his roommate arrived. He was all covered with (5) Ishmael soon discovered that the harpooner, whose name was Queequeg, was (6) The two men soon became friends.

Two days later, Queequeg and Ishmael took (7) to the island of Nantucket to sign up with a whaling ship. When they arrived, they saw several whaling ships, but they chose the *Pequod*. They talked with Starbuck, the ship's first mate. He told them about Captain Ahab and how (8) to a whale.

After this Queequeg and Ishmael met a strange man named (9) He told them the *Pequod* was

(10) and that there were (11) in the ship's hold. Ishmael decided not to think about Elijah and his prophecy.

The *Pequod* sailed on Christmas Day. At first they never saw Captain Ahab. But they heard (12) on the deck as they slept below. Ishmael was very favourably impressed with the ship's officers, Starbuck, Stubb and Flask, as well as its harpooners.

Finally, as the ship was sailing through the cold Atlantic waters, Ishmael saw Ahab. He was a grim old man with a beard and a long (13) Ahab, though, spoke to (14)

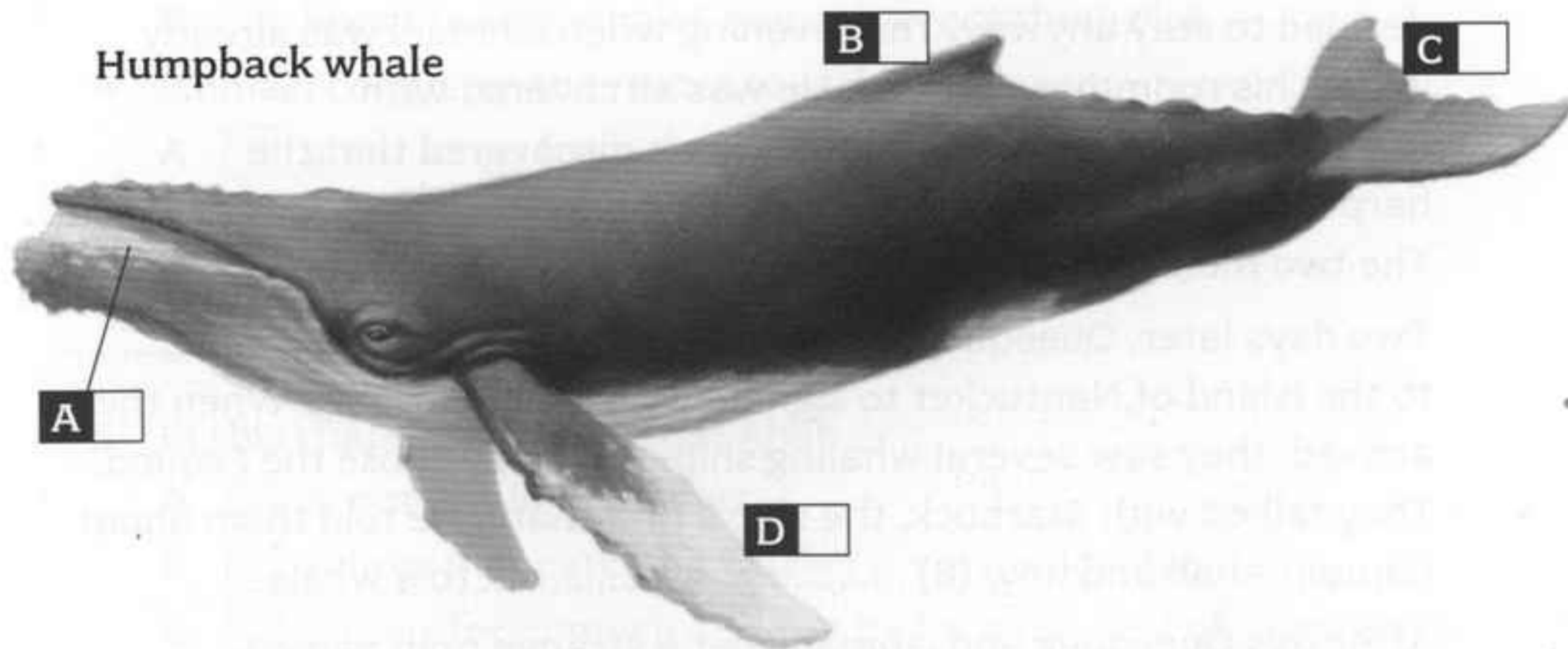
Before you read

1 Vocabulary

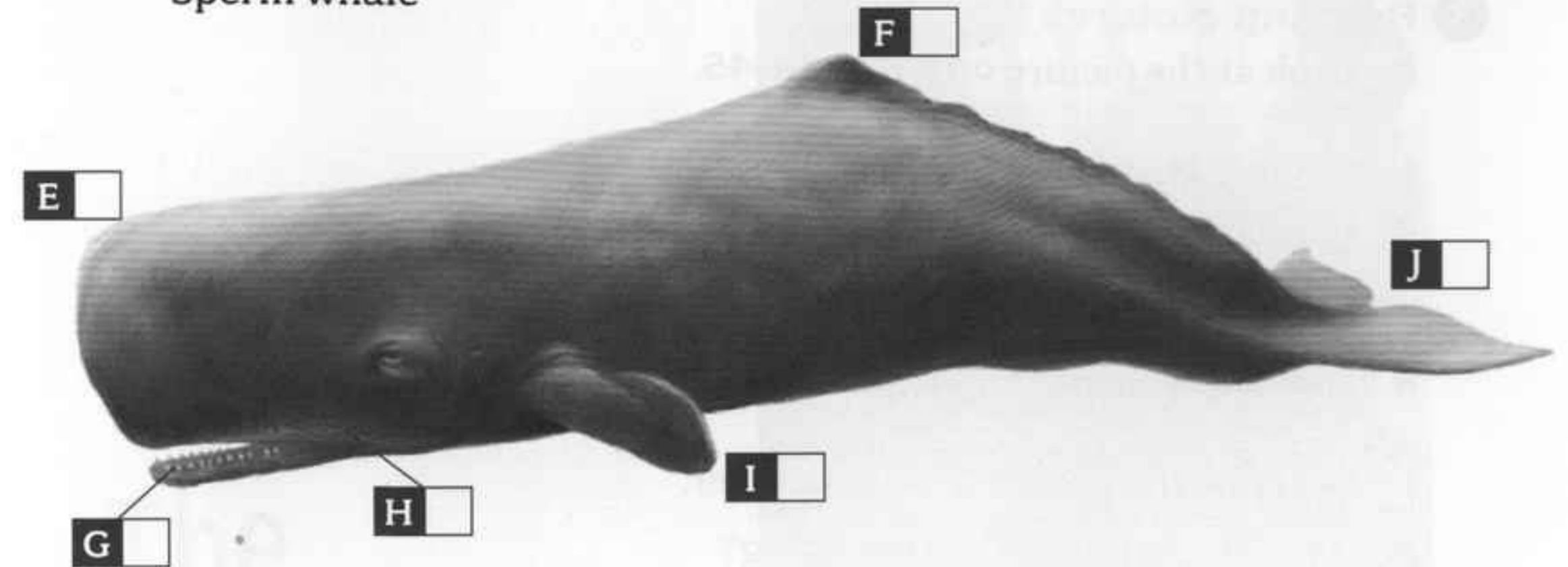
Match the words below with the correct parts of the whales. Use a dictionary.

- 1 brow 2 tail 3 flipper 4 hump
- 5 teeth 6 baleen 7 jaw

Humpback whale



Sperm whale



2 Humpback whales and sperm whales

Read the information and answer the following questions.

- 1 What are two important physical differences between the humpback whale (A) and the sperm whale (B)?
- 2 How do whales use their baleen? Use a dictionary or the Internet to help you.
- 3 Which of the two kinds of whales: is bigger? can stay under water longer? weighs more? eats tiny animals? has the bigger range?

A Order – Cetacea (whales); Suborder, Mysticeti (baleen whales)
 Length – 12-16 meters
 Weight – Up to 36,000 kilograms
 Range – All the oceans of the world, excluding the Mediterranean and the Bay of Bengal.
 Time under water – Up to 45 minutes, but generally for 3-9 minutes.
 Food: Small fish and krill (small marine crustaceans).

B Order – Cetacea (whales); Suborder, Odontoceti (toothed whales)
 Length – 18-20 meters
 Weight – Up to 50,000 kilograms
 Range – All the oceans of the world, including the Mediterranean.
 Time under water – Up to 2 hours, but generally for 5-15 minutes.
 Food – Large fish and giant squid.

3 Reading pictures

A Look at the picture on pages 44-45.

- 1 What is Ahab holding in his hands?
- 2 Why do you think he is holding these things?

B Look at the picture on page 49.

- 1 Describe the picture to your partner.
- 2 What do you think they are doing?
- 3 Why do you think they are doing this?

4 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Chapter Four. You will hear about Ahab's strange offer to the crew. Answer YES or NO to the following questions.

	Yes	No
1 One night Ishmael was up on the masthead because he was looking for ships.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 It wasn't easy to stand on the masthead when the weather wasn't good.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Ahab slept most of the time.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 He heard Ahab shouting in his cabin.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 The next day Starbuck called the crew onto the deck.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 The crew did not know why Starbuck called them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 The men answered Ahab's questions calmly and softly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Ahab was not very happy with the crew's answers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 Ahab offered a gold coin to whoever killed the white whale.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 The gold coin was worth more than 16 dollars.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHAPTER FOUR

The Gold Coin



The days and nights passed and we went about our business. One of my duties was to stay at the masthead and look out for whales. Our masthead was not closed like a nest; it was open, and in bad weather it was difficult to stay there. One night while I was on the masthead I could see Ahab walking back and forth on the deck. He never seemed to sleep – he just walked, and that night his peg leg made an awful noise. He seemed to be nervous and angry, and I wondered why.

The next morning I found out why. I heard Starbuck call, "All hands on deck!" and the crew rushed onto the deck wondering what had happened.

The moment I saw the captain I knew something was wrong. The pain and anger in Ahab's heart were slowly coming out.

He put his peg leg into the hole in the deck and when he was perfectly balanced he cried out, "Tell me, men! What do you do when you see a whale?"

"Shout out, sir!" cried the crew, looking up at the captain.



"Good!" he cried. "Then what?"

"We lower the boats and go after him."

Ahab looked at us with fierce satisfaction and suddenly pulled out a large gold coin. "Here is a Spanish gold coin! A sixteen-



dollar piece! Do you see it? Mr. Starbuck, give me the hammer!" He placed the shiny gold coin on the main mast and put a nail through it. The big gold coin was now on the mast and shone in the sun.

"Whoever sees the white whale first will get the gold coin," cried Ahab.

END

"Hurrah!" cried the men.

"Now listen to me! This is not an ordinary white whale. The whale I'm looking for is a white-headed sperm whale with a wrinkled brow and a crooked¹ jaw. There are three holes in its tail and a twisted harpoon in its hump — that's my harpoon!" He paused and looked at our excited faces.

"Remember, it's a white whale I want — *white!* I must have it! Look carefully for it. Even if you see a bubble of water, shout out! And if it is the whale I'm looking for, the gold coin is yours!"

The crew cheered again and stared at the shiny gold coin.

"Captain Ahab," said Tashtego, "is that white whale called Moby Dick?"

"Yes!" shouted Ahab fiercely. "Do you know the white whale then, Tash?"

"Yes," replied Tashtego. "He has a strange way of diving."

"I know him too," said Daggoo. "His spout is big and looks like a fountain."

"I saw him," said Queequeg. "He has many harpoons in his body."

A strange smile crossed Ahab's face, a crazy, evil smile that scared me. "Yes, you've seen him. You've seen Moby Dick!"

"Captain Ahab," said Starbuck looking at the captain cautiously, "Wasn't this the whale that took off your leg?"

"Who told you that?" asked Ahab, his smile disappearing. "Yes, Starbuck, it was Moby Dick who took off my leg. It was that horrid white whale!" And he let out a cry like a hurt animal.

1. **crooked** : not straight, uneven, twisted.

He lifted his long arms, looked up at the sky and cried, "I'll chase him around the Cape of Good Hope to Cape Horn — I'll follow him all over the seas of the world, until he spouts black blood!" Fire burned in his eyes and he stared at each one of us.

"This is why you men are here — to chase Moby Dick all over the world and hunt him until he dies. Are you brave enough to do this? Are you with me?"

"Yes, we are!" shouted the harpooners and the sailors, who were excited and ready to hunt the terrible beast. "We'll keep a sharp eye and a sharp harpoon as well!" said one of the harpooners.

"God bless you, men!" said Ahab, his voice shaking.

The men cheered but Starbuck did not — his face was grim.

"Why such a sad face, Mr Starbuck? Aren't you brave enough to chase the white whale?" asked Ahab suspiciously.

"Oh," replied Starbuck, "I'm brave enough to face his crooked jaw and the jaws of death, too. But I came on board this ship to hunt all whales, not just one whale. I didn't come here to satisfy my captain's revenge. I came here to hunt whales for their oil. That's my business — whale oil. And I'm here to make money on it. How many barrels of whale oil can we make on only one white whale?"

"Money? Is that what's worrying you — money? Oh, my revenge will make me richer here," cried Ahab hitting his chest.

"That whale attacked you because it was his animal instinct, but you want him out of cruelty and revenge. *That is madness!*" cried Starbuck.

"Madness!" roared Ahab. "Listen to me, man! Moby Dick looks like a stupid animal, but he's not, he's evil — and that is what I hate."

“God help us!” murmured Starbuck.

“Moby Dick is in my mind every moment of the day. He’s in my dreams — his existence insults me. I’d strike¹ the sun if it insulted me! White is the color of evil. Ghosts, skeletons, masks — they’re all white. Moby Dick’s white and he’s evil! I’m like a man in prison and he’s the wall — the wall that I have to destroy to be free!”

The two men stood face to face, and Ahab knew he was stronger. He stepped back slowly and said, “God help us all.”

The men of the *Pequod* were excited and enthusiastic, and felt that Ahab’s mission was now their mission.

“Mates!” Ahab cried out. “Bring your harpoons to me and cross them.”

Starbuck, Stubb and Flask brought their harpoons to cross them in front of Ahab. “Now swear this: Death to Moby Dick! God hunt us all if we don’t kill Moby Dick!”

Ahab then turned to the harpooners and said, “Now, harpooners, use the heads of your harpoons as cups and drink to the death of Moby Dick.”

Before going to his cabin Ahab turned back and said to all of us, “Remember that you have all made a promise.”

I trembled at the thought of what had happened. Captain Ahab was madness itself. And we had sworn to his madness.

I, Ishmael, was one of that crew and my shouts had gone up with the rest. I had sworn too.

1. **strike** : hit with violence.



The text and **beyond**

1 Comprehension check

Answer the following questions.

- 1 What was the first thing a crew member did when he saw a whale?
- 2 What was the second thing?
- 3 Whose harpoon was in the hump of the white whale?
- 4 What did the three harpooners know about the white whale?
- 5 How did the crew react to Ahab's talk about Moby Dick?
- 6 What was the purpose of the *Pequod's* voyage according to Ahab? And according to Starbuck?
- 7 Why did Moby Dick attack Ahab according to Starbuck? And according to Ahab?
- 8 What did the crew promise to do?
- 9 With what gesture did the mates confirm their promise? And the harpooners?

FCE 2 Writing

You are Ahab. In 120-180 words write a report about your ceremony of the gold coin and the crossed harpoons. Include the following information:

- 1 You lost your leg to Moby Dick during your last voyage.
- 2 You have only just recovered from that injury.
- 3 You have planned your revenge for a long time.
- 4 You have not told anybody about your plans to hunt Moby Dick.
- 5 How you feel about the crew and their reaction to your proposal.

You can begin like this:

During my last voyage I met evil in the shape of a horrible white whale. This white whale...

3 Characters

Say for which of the characters (A-E) each of the following sentences (1-15) is true. You can use the characters more than once.

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| A Ishmael | B Queequeg | C Starbuck |
| D Stubb | E Ahab | |

- 1 He takes his religion very seriously.
- 2 He sees whale hunting as a business operation.
- 3 He has a strong, charismatic personality.
- 4 He is obsessed with the wrongs of the past.
- 5 He doesn't care about making money.
- 6 He is good to the men under his command.
- 7 He takes the actions of nature personally.
- 8 He doesn't take anything too seriously.
- 9 He is no longer interested in hunting whales.
- 10 He is able to get along with all different kinds of people.
- 11 He gave up a prestigious position in his society.
- 12 The sea cures him of his feelings of depression.
- 13 He has suffered greatly in his life.
- 14 He wants to see the world and meet different kinds of people.
- 15 He has very practical ideas about whale hunting.

4 Discussion

Many literary critics have noted that the *Pequod* and its crew is a kind of "democracy in miniature", or a kind of "model of the American republic". Discuss the following questions with your partner. Report your ideas to the class.

- 1 What kind of leader was Ahab?
- 2 What makes him a danger to democracy or the common good? Remember the *Pequod* was owned by many people and the livelihood of many people depended on it.
- 3 Why is the crew of the *Pequod* similar to the people of the United States? (Think of where the citizens of the United States come from.)
- 4 Do you think Starbuck would be a better "president" of the *Pequod*? Why or why not?

5 Word game

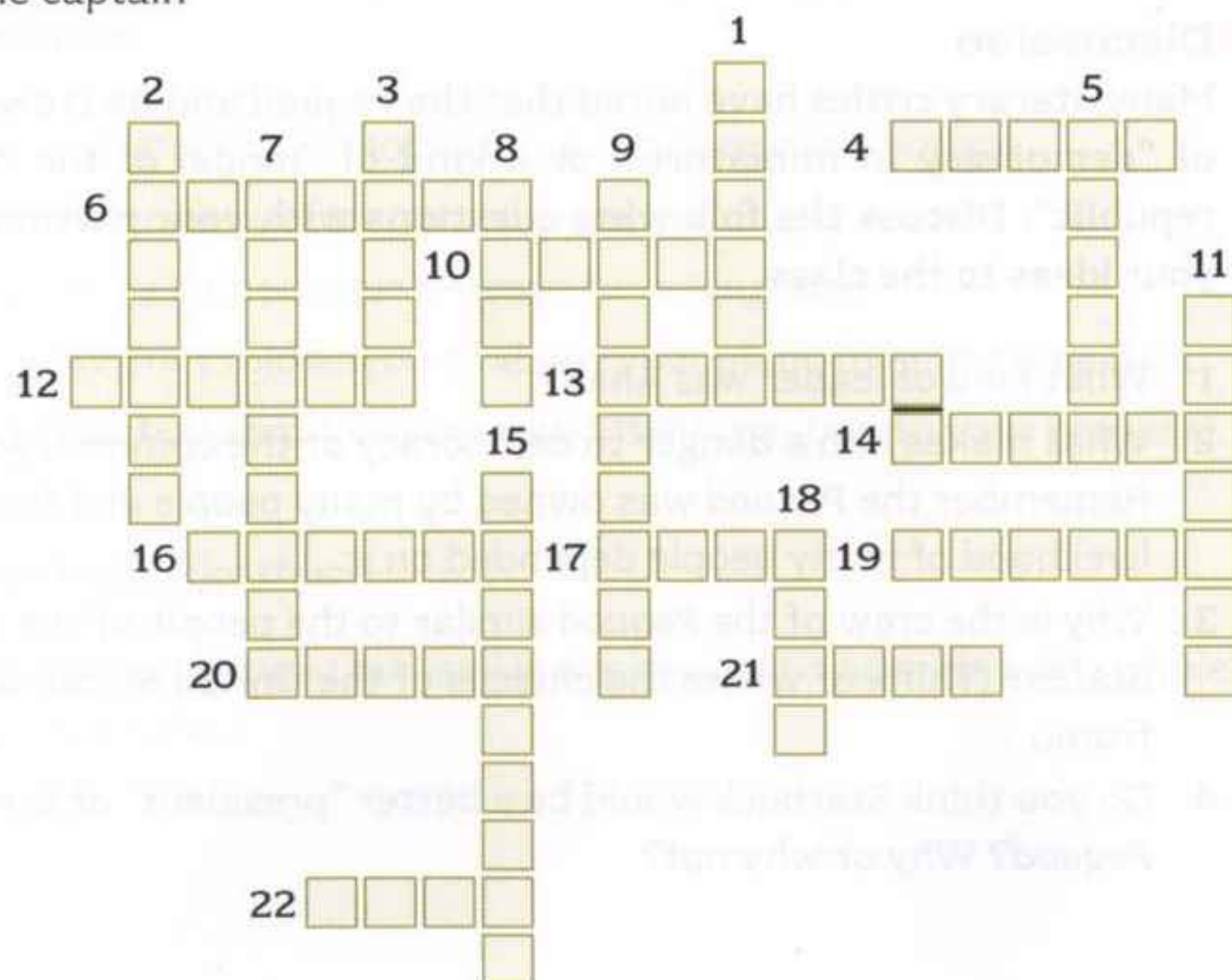
Complete the crossword puzzle. All the words come from Chapters 1-4.

Across

- 4 for Ahab, this color represents evil
- 6 without end
- 10 mentally ill, mad
- 12 a medieval soldier who wore armor and rode a horse
- 13 hit
- 14 pieces of information communicated from person to person that are not necessarily true
- 16 the wooden box that holds a dead body
- 17 a yellow and very valuable metal
- 19 the opposite of "big"
- 20 promise
- 21 a round piece of metal used as money
- 22 an officer of a ship, but not the captain

Down

- 1 communication with God or a god
- 2 killing Moby Dick will be Ahab's for having lost his leg
- 3 the center of our emotions, or the large muscle that pumps blood
- 5 a permanent design on the skin
- 7 risky and not safe
- 8 a mark left on the skin after a cut or injury gets better
- 9 person who travels on a boat, ship, bus, plan, etc. but is not a member of the crew
- 11 something that we cannot understand or explain
- 15 if you get, you take your clothes off
- 18 the place where ships are tied up to be loaded or unloaded



INTERNET PROJECT

Moby Dick goes to the movies

Moby Dick has inspired numerous films. The best, perhaps, is John Huston's 1956 film with Gregory Peck as Captain Ahab. The screenplay was written by the famous science-fiction writer Ray Bradbury.

Another excellent film was made for television in 1998. The British actor Patrick Stewart played Captain Ahab. Gregory Peck appeared in this version as Father Mapple.

Connect to the Internet and go to www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. Insert the title of the book into our search engine. Open the page for *Moby Dick*. Click on the Internet project link. Go down the page until you find the title of this book and click on the relevant links for this project. Watch the video, and then show it to your partner or the class.

Before you show it tell them:

- ▶ what the scene is
- ▶ what part of the book is not in the film
- ▶ what you didn't like
- ▶ who the characters are
- ▶ what you liked



Ahab and his crew, from the 1998 television film of *Moby Dick*.

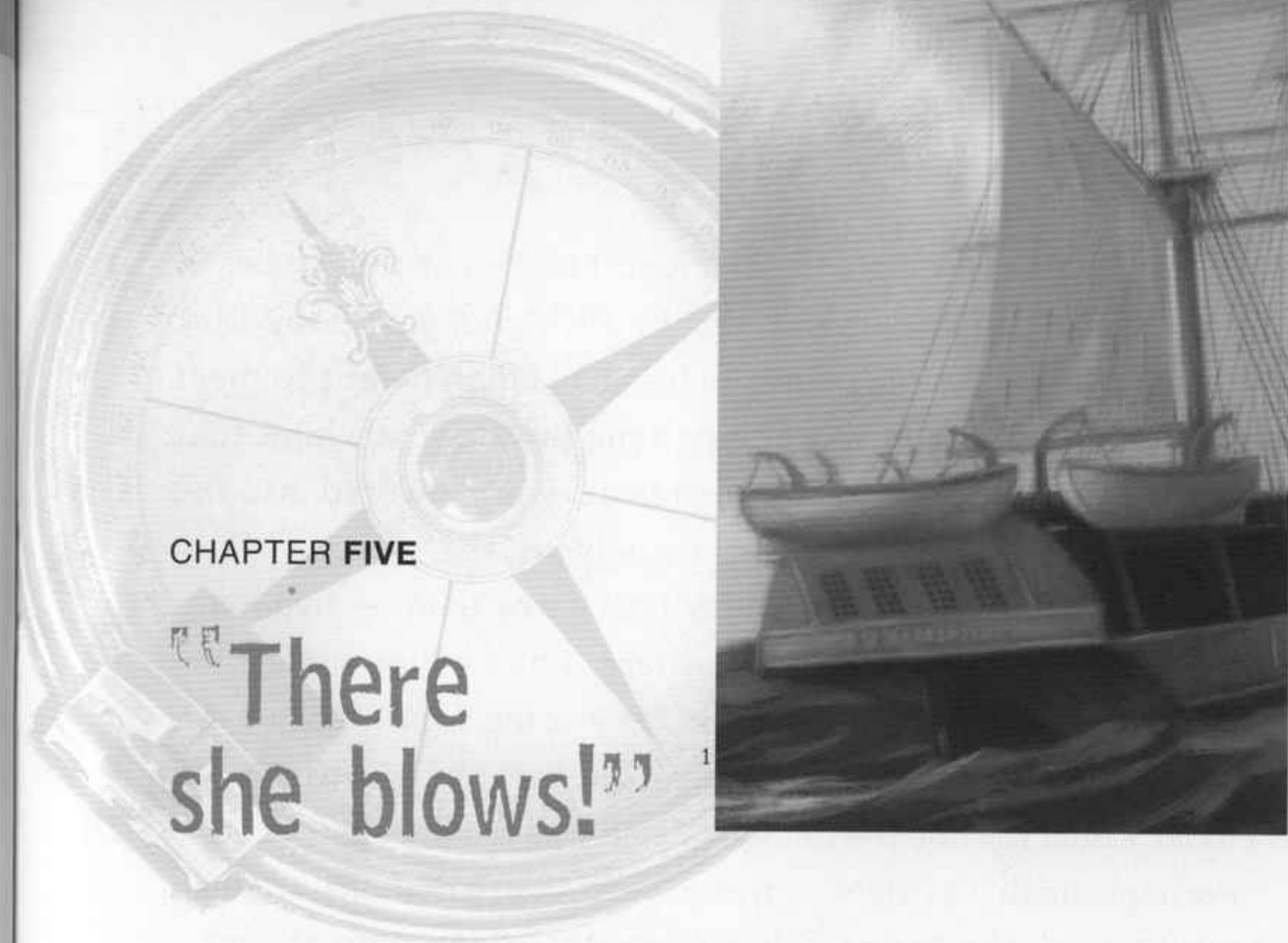
Before you read



1 Listening

You will hear about the beginning of Ishmael's first whale hunt. For questions 1-5, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

- Ahab continued to hunt other whales because
 - Moby Dick was not in the area.
 - that was his job.
 - his crew needed something to do.
- Who was the first to see a whale?
 - Ishmael
 - Ahab
 - Tashtego
- Ishmael knew that Moby Dick was not one of the whales because
 - none of the whales was white.
 - Moby Dick always went with larger groups of whales.
 - Moby Dick never went with other whales.
- When Ishmael realized that Moby Dick was not one of the whales, he was
 - angry.
 - thankful and glad.
 - disappointed.
- Who was in Ahab's harpoon boat?
 - men who had never hunted whales before
 - men who had hidden until the moment of the first hunt
 - men who looked like ghosts and not like real men



CHAPTER FIVE

“There she blows!”

Ahab knew that as captain of the *Pequod* he had another task which was not his personal revenge. He had to bring back whale oil because that was the purpose of the voyage. That meant we had to kill other whales, not only Moby Dick.

We all kept our eyes open for any whale and the days passed slowly and easily. Then one day as I was helping Queequeg make a mat,² I heard Tashtego, who was high up on the masthead of the ship, cry, “There she blows! There! There!”

We all looked up and in the distance we saw several sperm whales that were blowing as regularly as a clock. My first whale! This was the moment I was waiting for. Each member of the crew knew what he had to do, but there was still a lot of confusion and running around.

1. “There she blows!”: a man shouts this when he first sees a whale.

2. mat:



My heart was beating hard and fast. I looked at the whales in the distance. Was one of them Moby Dick? But no, Moby Dick always swam alone. I was relieved because I didn't want to meet him my first time out. It was almost time for the whale hunt that I had been waiting for. The harpoon boats were lowered into the sea, and this was the beginning of the adventure.

But just as I was getting into my boat I saw them — five extra whaling men appeared out of nowhere. I had never seen them before. Who were they? Where did they come from? They were not ghosts, but real men. They must have spent all of this time in the hold. Could they be the demons Elijah was talking about?

END

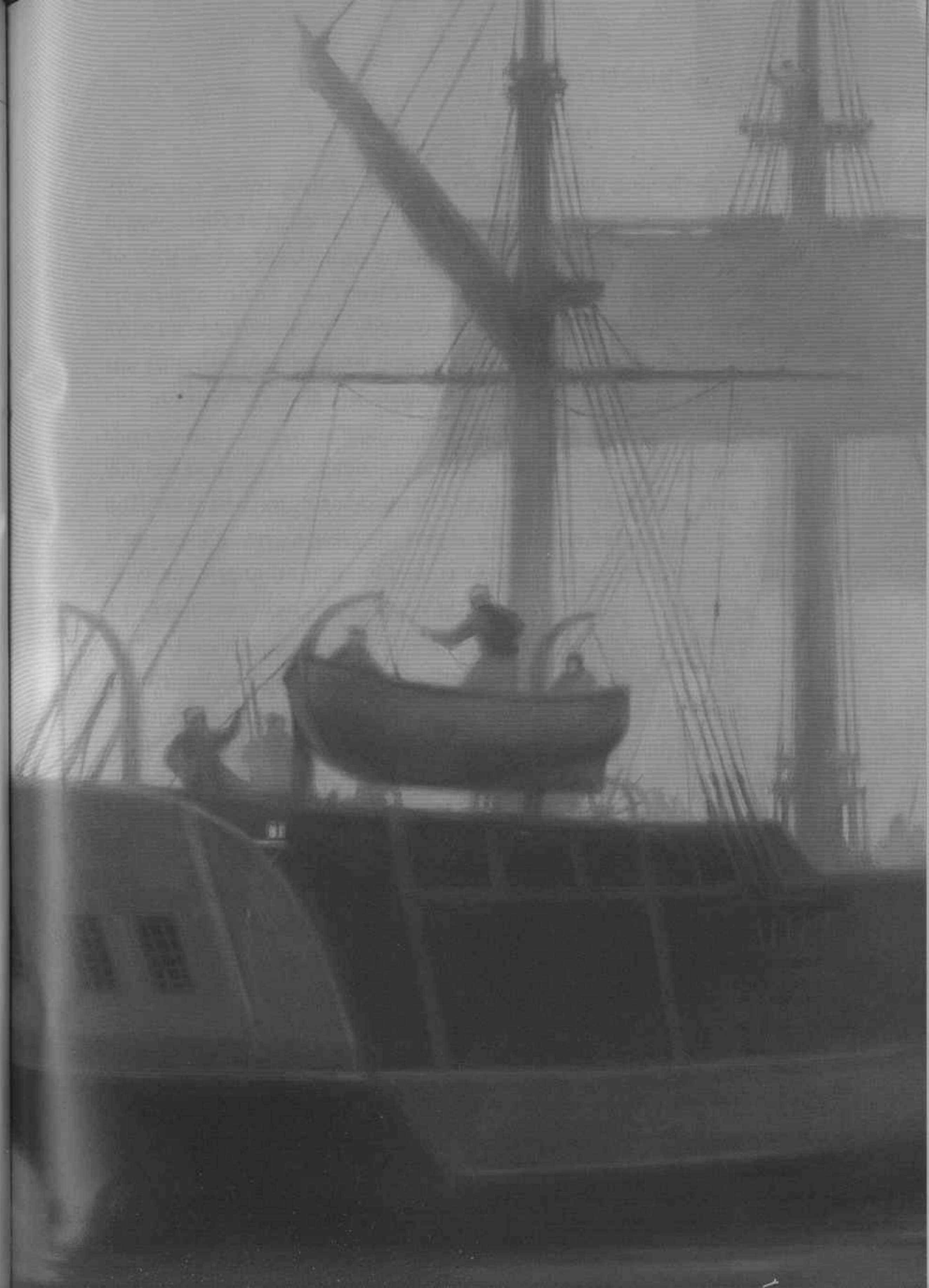
Perhaps Elijah was right — these were Ahab's demons! If Elijah was right about the demons, then what else was he right about?

Four harpoon boats were lowered into the water instead of three. Ahab and his crew of expert whale-killers rowed far ahead of the other three boats. The rowers had great power in their arms and they were very determined.

I learned later that one of these men was a Persian called Fedallah, Ahab's personal harpooner. He was tall and dark and wore an old black Chinese jacket, black trousers and a white turban on his head. He was a mysterious figure. The other four looked like natives of the Philippines.

Starbuck was the master of my boat and he stood at the stern and shouted his orders. I suddenly felt afraid and confused away from the ship. I was at eye level with the sea, and there was fog and mist everywhere. This was the whale's world and I was in it. Everything at that moment seemed impressive to me. How could these men possibly hunt and kill the biggest creature in the sea?

The three boats moved forward and Starbuck, Stubb and



Flask were telling their men to row faster and faster.

I was rowing as fast as I could, but I noticed that there was a lot of competition between the boats and the mates. And, of course, the Filipinos were far ahead of us.

The whales swam as fast as we rowed — they were like arrows shooting through the dark water. Would we ever reach them?

“Come on, men!” shouted Starbuck. “Get those muscles moving!”

I wanted our boat to be the first to reach the whales, but my back and legs started hurting. Then a storm arrived from the north and it started raining hard and the waves grew bigger, so it was harder to row. I had never rowed in such an angry sea with the waves crashing into our little boat. How could we reach the whales when we could hardly row?

And in spite of the increasing danger, in the back of our minds was the shiny gold coin nailed to the mast of the *Pequod*!

“There’s his hump,” said Starbuck to Queequeg. “Give it to him!”

Suddenly a sperm whale, a creature of incredible size, came to the surface next to our boat. At the same time the rain became much stronger and we could hardly see anything. Queequeg bravely threw his harpoon at the whale, but his hand was wet with rain and he missed it. So the great creature we had tried to kill escaped back down into the deep, dark waters.

Suddenly our oars flew away and we were lifted and then thrown back into the wild waves of the sea. Miraculously our boat did not break, but it was full of water. The cold water left us confused and we couldn’t speak. The world around us had become a curtain of white fog. Where was the *Pequod* and how

could we get there since we were surrounded by thick, white fog?

The wind blew loudly and the storm got worse. We sat trembling in the boat half filled with water. Suddenly Queequeg jumped to his feet and put his hand to his ear. Then we all heard the *Pequod* approaching. It almost crushed our boat with us in it. We jumped out and the *Pequod* sailed right over our boat. We then swam as hard as we could to reach the ship.

I was the last man to be pulled onto the ship. I fell onto the deck and was happy to be alive.

I saw Queequeg and said, “Does this sort of thing happen very often?”

“Yes,” he answered without much emotion.

“Did we lose any men?” I asked.

“No,” said Starbuck. “They’re all safely on board.”

The other men were sitting on the deck exhausted, telling their own stories of how they had seen death in the face and how they had swum to safety. I soon realized that each time I went out I was risking my life. The sea and the whales were powerful and unforgiving, and I was just a man. I decided I had better write my last will and testament.¹ I went below deck with Queequeg, who was my witness, and wrote my will. He put his mark on the bottom of the page and it became official.

1. **last will and testament** : a document that expresses a person’s last wishes regarding his money and/or property.

The text and **beyond**

1 Comprehension check

Answer the following questions about Chapter Five.

- 1 Who did Ishmael think Fedallah and his men were when he first saw them?
- 2 What was Elijah probably right about?
- 3 What special ability did Fedallah have?
- 4 How did he use it?
- 5 Why did Ishmael feel frightened when he was in the boat?
- 6 How did the weather change during the hunt?
- 7 Why did Ishmael and his companions fall into the ocean?
- 8 How did Queequeg react to their adventure?
- 9 Why did Ishmael decide to write his will?

FCE 2 Whale watching: a worldwide passion

Read the text and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Once upon a time the only whale watchers were men (0) *like*..... Ahab, Ishmael, Starbuck and Queequeg. Today it is estimated that 11 million people in 87 different countries (1) whale watching each year. And their (2) is simply to watch, or, at most, to (3) a picture of these giants of the seas. Whale watching began (4) 1954 near San Diego, USA. For the first time the (5) public was given the (6) to take a boat to watch whales. These rides were a huge (7) In the 1970s whale watching (8) to New England, and in the 1980s-90s to the rest of the world. Whale watching is now a big (9), making around \$14 billion per year. So, besides introducing millions of people to these wonderful creatures, whale watching provides another reason to say that a whale is (10) more alive than dead.

- | | | | |
|------------|--------|-----------|---------------|
| 0 A as | B such | C similar | D like |
| 1 A go | B come | C ride | D travel |
| 2 A reason | B goal | C cause | D target |

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| 3 A take | B do | C make | D give |
| 4 A in | B at | C on | D to |
| 5 A common | B normal | C regular | D general |
| 6 A option | B choice | C chance | D decision |
| 7 A triumph | B success | C winner | D popularity |
| 8 A went | B moved | C continued | D spread |
| 9 A business | B trade | C commerce | D industry |
| 10 A worth | B valuable | C priced | D considered |

FCE 3 Sentence transformation

For questions 1-6, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- 0 Ahab knew that he had another task; his personal revenge was not everything.
not
Ahab knew that personal revenge *was not his only*..... task.
- 1 Moby Dick always swam alone.
never
Moby Dick whales.
- 2 I had never seen them before.
first
This I had seen them.
- 3 I was rowing as fast as I could.
any
I faster.
- 4 I asked Queequeg, "Does this sort of thing happen very often?"
that
I asked Queequeg if very often.
- 5 Each time I went out I was risking my life.
without
I risking my life.
- 6 "Did we lose any men?" I asked Queequeg.
had
I asked Queequeg any men.

INTERNET PROJECT

Connect to the Internet and go to www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. Insert the title of the book into our search engine. Open the page for *Moby Dick*. Click on the Internet project link. Go down the page until you find the title of this book and click on the relevant links for this project. Using the suggested links find the whale watching locality nearest to where you live.

Then find out:

- ▶ when the best time to go out is
- ▶ what whales you can see
- ▶ how much it costs
- ▶ how long the trips last

VOYAGE OF THE ODYSSEY

▶ VOICE from the SEA

▶ What is the VOYAGE?

▶ TRACK the Voyage

▶ INTERACTIVE Ocean

▶ CLASS from the SEA

▶ Patrick STEWART

WHAT IS THE VOYAGE?

The **Voyage of the Odyssey** is a five-year program designed to gather the first ever baseline data on levels of synthetic contaminants throughout the world's oceans. It will use whales and pelagic fish as indicator species for measuring the health of the seas.

The Ocean Alliance is dedicated to rigorous scientific research in conjunction with global education in order to improve people's appreciation for, and understanding of the ocean environment and the creatures within it, and to contribute to the conservation of whales.

The material we post will be advanced multimedia material offering a thematic, hands-on approach to understanding life in the seas. For the five years, the Odyssey will be continuously connected to the world via an interactive website and 'live' classroom linkups from the field.

Linking 'live' to the Odyssey from the classroom will give students all over the world a chance to participate in a voyage of discovery that is circling the globe — a unique educational opportunity for teachers and a formative experience for students.

During our voyage we have created the *Class from the Sea*, an interactive education program linking the Odyssey directly to schools around the globe via the internet.

To learn more about our present expedition in the Atlantic Ocean, please listen to the current Daily Log and the latest Voice from the Sea pieces on the front page of the website. View the current position of the Odyssey daily as well as live audio, video, and still images along the way in Track the Voyage.

Learn more about some of the scientific papers and media generated during expedition - click here to view some of the results so far.

A sperm whale
Photo: Iain Kerr

Report your findings to the class.

The Internet offers not just words and photos, it also offers a vast choice of videos. Go to the suggested sites and watch the videos of whales. Choose the one you like best and show it to the class. Before you show it, describe briefly what they will see. You can use the following words to help you:

- ▶ to dive
- ▶ to spout
- ▶ to breach: when a whale jumps out of the water
- ▶ to roll over
- ▶ to come to the surface
- ▶ underwater

Before you read

1 Listening

Fill in the gaps with the words in the box. Then listen to the beginning of Chapter Six to check your answers.

took happy looked normally time another
needed lonely friendly lucky

Life can be very (1) at sea. Weeks go by and you don't see anyone other than the members of the crew. But every now and then we were (2) enough to meet (3) ship.

One day, southeast of the Cape of Good Hope, we saw another whaler, the *Albatross*, which was sailing towards home. Everything about the *Albatross* spoke of too many months at sea, too much rough weather, too much sea and salt. She had been away whaling for four years. And her crew (4) weathered too. The captains of both ships (5) stop and talk with one another, and this is called a "gam". The gam is a (6) when the two captains and their crews can exchange a few (7) words and find out about their whaling. But Ahab didn't like gams because they (8) time away from hunting *Moby Dick* — his only thought.


So when we saw the *Albatross*, he shouted, "Ahoy! Have you seen the white whale?"

The captain of the other ship wanted to answer but his trumpet fell into the sea so that was the end of the gam. The crew was not (9) about this because the men (10) to see and talk to other sailors.



CHAPTER SIX

The Big Whale Hunt

Life can be very lonely at sea. Weeks go by and you don't see anyone other than the members of the crew. But every now and then we were lucky enough to meet another ship. 

One day, southeast of the Cape of Good Hope, we saw another whaler, the *Albatross*, which was sailing towards home. Everything about the *Albatross* showed she had spent too many months at sea, too much rough weather, too much sea and salt. She had been away whaling for four years. And her crew looked weathered too. The captains of both ships normally stop and talk with one another, and this is called a "gam". The gam is a time when the two captains and their crews can exchange a few friendly words and find out about their whaling.



But Ahab didn't like games because they took time away from hunting Moby Dick — his only thought.

So when we saw the *Albatross*, he shouted, "Ahoy! Have you seen the white whale?"

The captain of the other ship wanted to answer but his trumpet fell into the sea so that was the end of the game. The crew was not happy about this because the men needed to see and talk to other sailors.

END

As time went on the white whale began to obsess our minds too — we started seeing it everywhere.

One clear blue morning the *Pequod* was sailing towards Java through a bright yellow area of plankton.¹ Daggoo thought he saw Moby Dick and shouted, "There! There he is! Right ahead — the white whale!"

Captain Ahab and everyone else rushed to take a look. But to everyone's disappointment, particularly Ahab's, the enormous creature of the sea was a giant squid.² This amazing creature was a soft mass of cream-colored flesh with innumerable long arms that grew out of its body and curled and twisted. It slowly disappeared into the deep sea again.

"What was it?" asked Flask.

"It was the great squid, the biggest creature in the universe. Few whaling ships have ever seen it... and it's an evil omen," said Starbuck, his eyes wide with horror.

But Queequeg didn't agree. "No," he said. "When you see giant squid, then you quick see whales." Ahab had already gone back

1. **plankton** : very small forms of plant and animal life that float on the surface of the sea.

2. **squid** :



to his cabin. The giant squid was not remarkable to him: nothing held interest for him, only the white whale. Nothing touched his soul, only Moby Dick.

The next day it was extremely hot and still. It was my turn to stand watch. And all was still in that part of the Indian Ocean. I had been on the masthead for hours and I was growing sleepy. Suddenly I saw a gigantic sperm whale, its shiny body rolling in the water like an overturned ship. It seemed to be as sleepy as I was.

Could it be Moby Dick? I observed it carefully. No, it wasn't white. It wasn't Moby Dick, but it was a majestic creature.

"There she blows!" a sailor cried and the sleepy ship came to life.

"Lower the boats!" cried Ahab.

I climbed into Stubb's boat this time and was excited about this new whaling adventure. Today I could hunt my first whale!

The sudden cries of the crew and the movement of the boats probably scared the gigantic creature and he started swimming away. He spouted majestically a few times and then suddenly he lifted his tail forty feet into the air and sank into the deep water.

"There he goes under!" cried Stubb, with his pipe in his mouth. "Don't hurry! Take it slowly, we're almost on him now." We rowed with all of our strength.

"Stand up, Tashtego!" cried Stubb. "Give it to him *now*!"

Tashtego's muscular arm threw the harpoon and it struck the whale perfectly. The harpoon was attached to a long rope on the bottom of the boat, and the rope started flying out of the boat, following the harpoon. It burned as it passed through our hands.

Stubb stood up and held the rope. "Wet the rope!" he cried. "Wet the rope!"

Now we were attached to the whale, and our boat flew through the water as he swam away, desperately trying to get free. Each man held tightly to his seat.

Then Tashtego and Stubb took their harpoons. We got closer to the whale and Stubb threw his first harpoon at the whale and then a second one and then another. The whale swam more slowly now and we brought the boat closer.

The whale's life was almost over, but he tried to escape and survive with all the strength he had left. Stubb threw harpoon after harpoon into the whale's side. Blood began to shoot out and it covered all of us. I had never seen so much blood in my life.

The whale blew the last huge spouts of spray at us and fought until the end. What a strange and tragic sight! A great life was ending before my eyes. The sea around the boat turned red with the whale's blood. Stubb brought the boat closer to the whale and pushed his lance deep into it, piercing his heart.

"He's dead, Mr Stubb," said Tashtego.

"Yes," said Stubb, taking the pipe out of his mouth and shaking the ashes over the sea. He stood there thoughtfully looking at the huge body.



The text and **beyond**

FCE 1 Comprehension check

For questions 1-5, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

- What do we learn about the *Albatross*?
 - A Her captain and crew were too tired for a gam.
 - B Her captain and crew did not like gams.
 - C Her captain and crew were at the end of a long, difficult voyage.
 - D Her captain and crew had not seen Moby Dick.
- The crew of the *Pequod* liked gams because they
 - A wanted the company of new people.
 - B wanted information about Moby Dick.
 - C liked seeing a different ship.
 - D got a break from hunting whales.
- How is the crew affected by Ahab's madness?
 - A They become mad, like him.
 - B They become unhappy.
 - C They become afraid.
 - D They think more about going home.
- How can we describe Queequeg's and Starbuck's reaction to the giant squid?
 - A logical and irrational
 - B simple and complex
 - C ridiculous and sentimental
 - D Christian and Pagan
- How does Ishmael present the hunting of the whale?
 - A As an unfair battle between many men and one animal.
 - B As a kind of a game that either men or animal could win.
 - C As a courageous battle by men against an admirable adversary.
 - D As a crime committed by the sailors of the *Pequod*.

2 Opposites

Write the opposite to the words below and then find them in the word square.

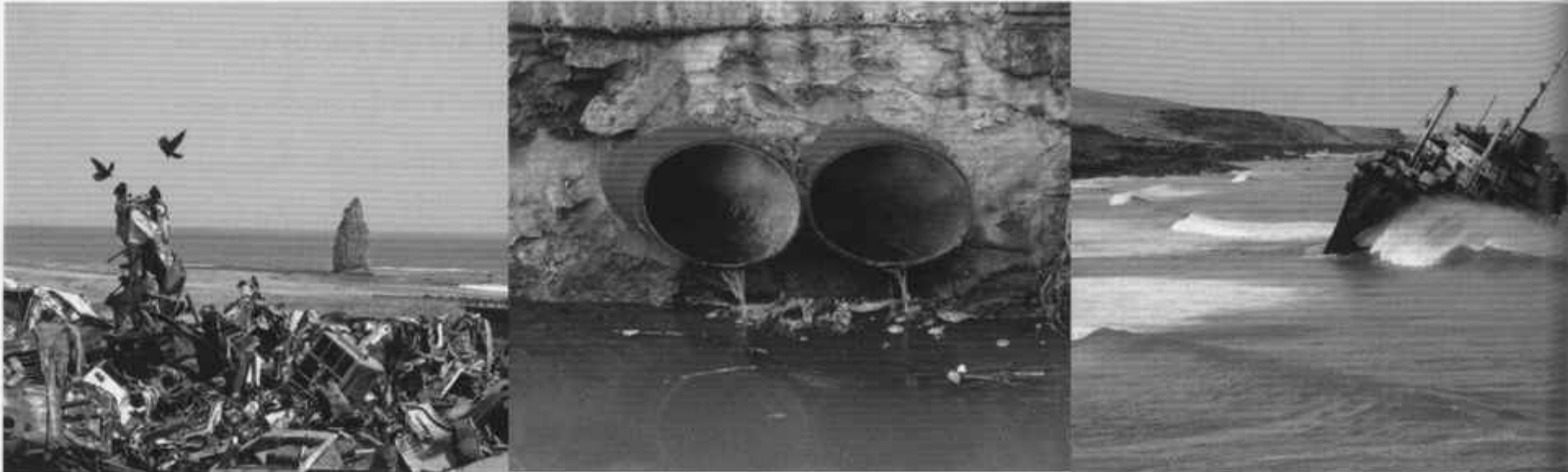
- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1 satisfaction | <u>disappointment</u> | 7 normal | <u>remarkable</u> |
| 2 good | <u>evil</u> | 8 shallow | |
| 3 dry | | 9 nothing | |
| 4 shouted | | 10 lift | |
| 5 last | | 11 cloudy | |
| 6 tiny | | 12 hard | |

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

T: GRADE 7

3 Speaking: pollution and recycling

This chapter mentions some of the many forms of life that live in the ocean: plankton, giant squid and whales. Unfortunately, pollution threatens the life of the oceans of the world. Look at the pictures below and say what kind of pollution is represented by each picture.



Give a short talk saying what you think should be done to stop pollution in your country or town. Use the words and phrases below to help you.

- water purification plants
- international cooperation
- recycling
- better laws
- education and schools
- television

You can also use these questions to help you.

- Do people your age think pollution is a serious problem? Why? Why not?
- What can you and other people do to fight pollution?

4 Characters

Unscramble each sentence. Then say which of the three characters said each sentence and why. All the sentences come from Chapters 4-6.

Who

(A) Ahab (Q) Queequeg (S) Starbuck

A Q 6 in has body many he harpoons his.
He has many harpoons in his body.

- B it here to and I'm make on money.
- C us help God!
- D wall like prison I'm and a man he's in the.
- E him it to give.
- F omen an evil it's.

Why

- 1 He is saying why he has to kill Moby Dick.
- 2 He is saying what the giant squid means.
- 3 He realizes that Ahab is mad.
- 4 He is saying why he does not want to chase Moby Dick around the world.
- 5 He is telling his harpooner to throw his harpoon.
- 6 He is saying what he noticed about Moby Dick.

5 Summary

Number the paragraphs in the right order to make a summary of chapters 4-6, and then fill in the gaps with the words in the box.

omen weathered obsession lowered deck storm
there hammer whoever hands madness escape
demons pierced revenge blows masthead

- A The *Pequod* continued its voyage and saw strange things, like a white and (1) whaling ship called the *Albatross* and an enormous cream-coloured squid, which Starbuck considered an evil (2)
- B Ishmael had another chance to a hunt a sperm whale. This time it did not (1) First it was hit by the harpoons of Stubb and Tashtego. Then Stubb pulled his boat up close to the dying animal and (2) its heart with his harpoon.
- C Then he told the crew that (1) first saw the white whale would get the coin. The whole crew was enthusiastic about hunting Moby Dick, except for Starbuck. He thought that (2) against an animal was (3)
- D As the boats were (1), he noticed five extra whaling men. These, he thought, must be the (2) that Elijah had talked about.

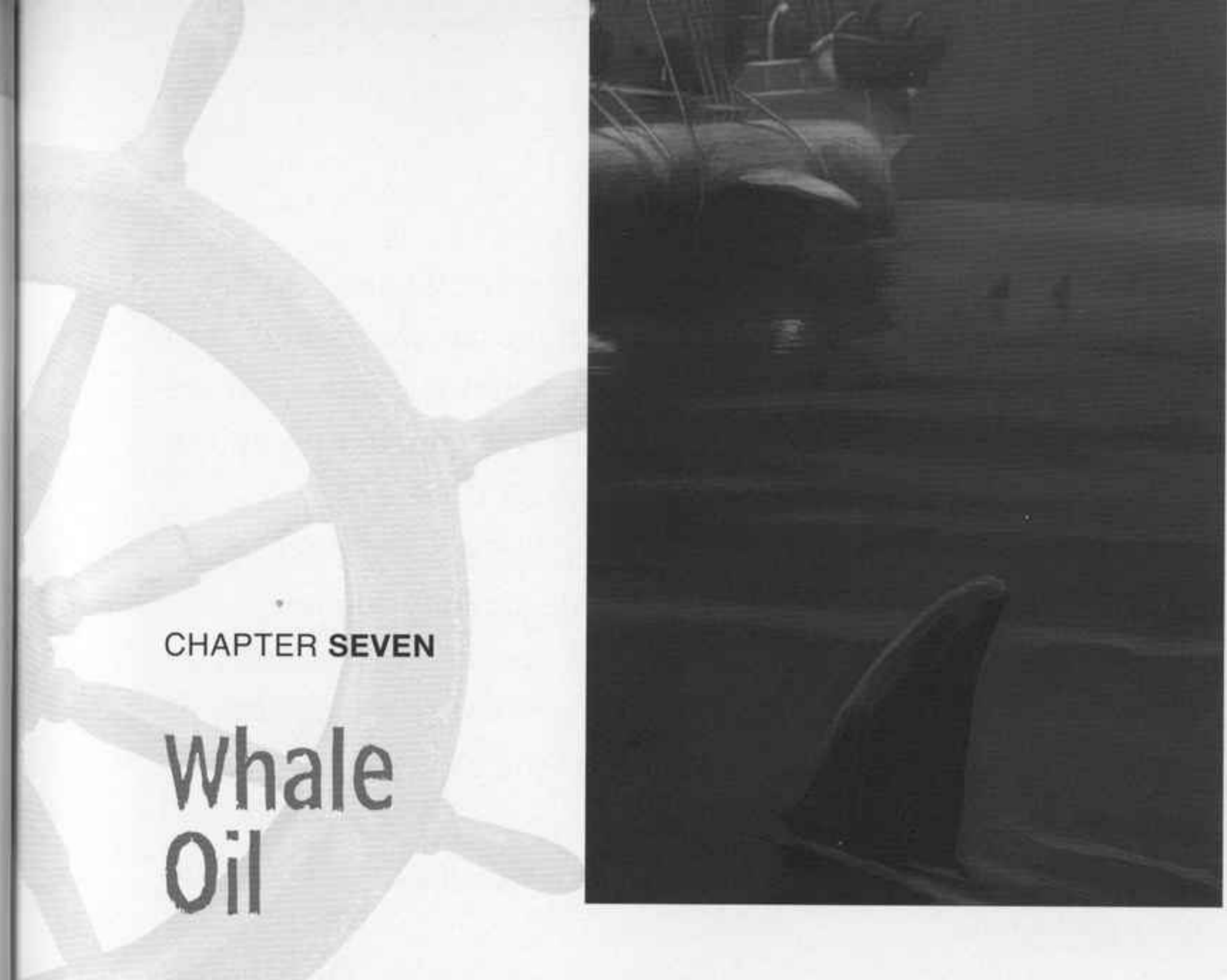
- E 1 Ishmael was up on the (1) looking for whales, when he heard Starbuck call all (2) on (3) When the crew arrived they saw Ahab. He had a mad look in his eyes, and he was holding a (4) and a gold coin. He hammered the coin to the mast.
- F The hunt, though, was a disaster. As the boats began to chase the whales, a (1) arrived and the men were lucky to get back to the *Pequod* alive.
- G Despite Ahab's (1) *obsession*..., the *Pequod* had to hunt other whales, and one day Ishmael heard Tashtego shout, "(2) *There*..... she (3) *blows*..... !" This was Ishmael's first hunt.

Before you read

 **1 Listening**


Listen to the beginning of Chapter Seven. You will hear about what happens to the dead whale. Answer YES or NO to the following questions.

	Yes	No
1 It was not very difficult to pull the dead whale to the <i>Pequod</i> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Ahab was not very happy with the whale because it was fairly small.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Stubb was not proud of his whale.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Queequeg woke up Ishmael.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Sharks began to eat the dead whale.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 The crew pulled the whale out of the water away from the sharks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 The sharks began to attack and eat each other.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 The crew rested on Sunday.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



CHAPTER SEVEN

Whale Oil

We had finally killed our first whale, but our work had just  begun. Now we had to bring the huge corpse back to the *Pequod* and cut it up. Eighteen men pulled the whale with three small boats. The job was difficult and tiring – we worked hard for hours, but it never seemed to end.

When it was dark we were still pulling the dead body back to the boat. Three lanterns hanging from the *Pequod* helped us find our way back to the ship. As soon as we reached it Ahab looked at the whale with disappointment because it was not Moby Dick.

“Tie him up for the night!” he ordered angrily and went back to his cabin.

“Is that all he can say!” said Stubb. “Oh, who cares? This was a big day for me!” and he laughed. Nothing could make Stubb sad.

“Alright, men,” Starbuck shouted, “tie up the whale!”

We were exhausted after the whale hunt but we did not stop to rest — we got the heavy chains and started working. First we tied the head of the whale to the stern of the ship and the tail to the bow. The huge body now rested alongside the *Pequod*.

“Tomorrow we can begin cutting up the whale,” said Stubb with satisfaction. That night he had whale steak for dinner.

After Stubb’s dinner, Queequeg and another sailor went on deck and saw that sharks were beginning to eat the dead body of the whale. They were tearing violently at the whale’s flesh. Blood flowed freely from the corpse.

“Put lanterns up over whale,” said Queequeg to me. “Light up water and whale.”

I immediately hung three lanterns on the ship. Their warm yellow light shone on the dead whale and the red sea. Dozens of hungry sharks attacked the corpse and its blood attracted more sharks. It was a terrible spectacle.

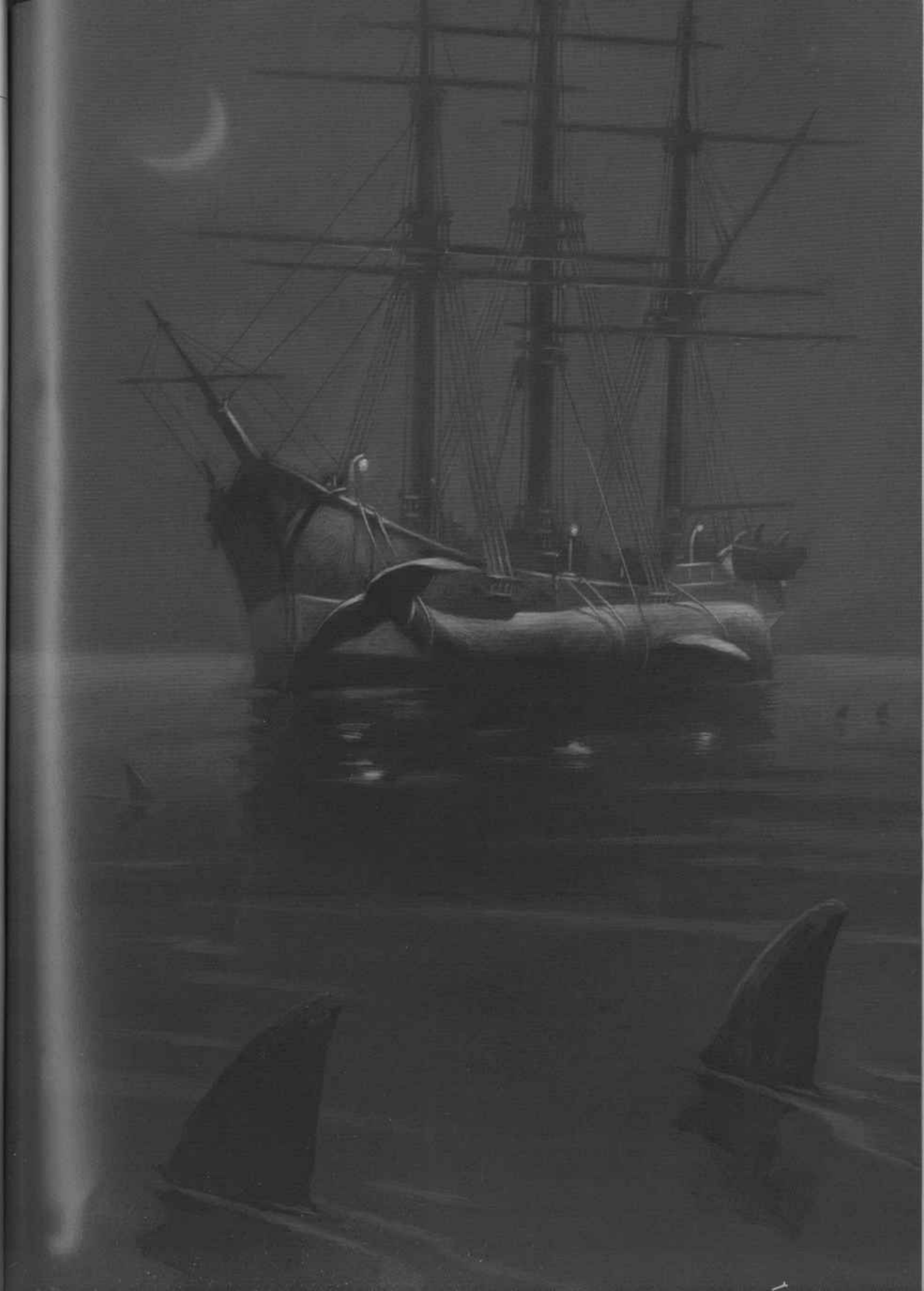
“They’re eating our whale!” I cried.

Queequeg and the other sailor were lowered on platforms on the side of the ship and started hitting the sharks with their harpoons.

The two men attacked and killed many of the sharks, and finally the hungry creatures started eating each other. This went on for hours.

The next morning was Sunday — the day to start cutting what was left of the whale after the shark attack. This was a new job for me and I wanted to learn it. Every sailor became a butcher and we started cutting up the whale to get the oil it contained, about a hundred barrels. This, after all, was the purpose of our voyage.

END



The whale's head was the first part to be cut off, and it was a very difficult job because the head was about one-third of the whale's body. Stubb was an expert at cutting whales. He used long, sharp tools and had to work about ten feet above the whale. As he worked, the whale was still floating in the rough sea. He cut deep into the creature's body and through the spinal cord. When the head was cut off it was tied to the stern of the ship for later use.

We worked on the body of the whale next. We cut a small hole in its side and placed a big hook inside the hole. Then a deep line was cut into its flesh and we started pulling on a rope as the whale rolled over and over in the sea.

As the whale rolled the blubber¹ began to break away from its body. The blubber stuck to the body of the whale like orange rind² sticks to an orange. And just like an orange rind, the blubber came off in big strips.


As the blubber was peeled the body was slowly lifted out of the water. In the end there was just a bloody mass.

A harpooner picked up a very sharp tool called a boarding sword³ and said "Stay back" to all of us. Then he put his sword into the mass of blubber three times. He cut the blubber in two and brought it on the ship. We melted it down to oil, putting the precious liquid into barrels to take home.

Now we had to work on the head, an important part of the whale. Inside the head of the sperm whale there are hundreds of

1. **blubber** : the fat of the whale used to make whale oil.

2. **rind** : 

3. **boarding sword** : 



gallons of spermaceti.¹ If a whaler is not skilled he can lose this precious substance.

Tashtego tied a thick rope around his waist and then lowered himself into the head of the whale. He started looking for the place where the spermaceti was.

Tashtego lowered a bucket inside the head. When he pulled it up it was full of spermaceti. This work went on for many long hours.

One of the whale's eyes stared at me — it was lifeless. How strange, I thought, our eyes are set in front of our head and we can see only one image, whatever is in front of us. The whale's eyes are set on both sides of its head so that it can see two different images — one on each side of its head. But people see things only one way — their way. If we could see two images instead of one then perhaps we could see two sides to everything.

This was Ahab's great problem. His obsession came from the fact that he could only see Moby Dick in one way — as evil.

Even though I hunted whales and I had sworn to help Ahab hunt Moby Dick, I could not see whales in only one way. I could not see them as all bad.

As I was thinking, Ahab came on deck and stood by me. He stared at the head of the whale and shook his head.

"Oh, head!" he said, "you've been to the bottom of all the oceans, you've seen the deepest mysteries of life, why can't you tell me about them? Why?"

When we had finished working on the whale, we removed the big hooks and chains and the enormous body floated away from the ship and out to sea.

1. **spermaceti** : a special white, waxy substance that is used for making candles and face creams.

The text and **beyond**

1 Comprehension check

Answer the following questions.

- 1 Who chased away the sharks?
- 2 How did they do it?
- 3 Who cut up the whale?
- 4 What does Ishmael compare the blubber to? Why?
- 5 Where is the spermaceti located?
- 6 What was it used for?
- 7 What did Ishmael notice about the whale's eyes? What did this make him think, both about himself and Ahab?
- 8 What would Ahab like to know from the whale?
- 9 What did they do with the whale corpse in the end?

2 Discussion

What do you think of Ishmael's thoughts about the whale's eyes? Think of reasons to agree and disagree.

3 Producing whale oil

Number the sentences in the right order to illustrate how whale oil is obtained.

- A The blubber is peeled off the body.
- B The whale is killed.
- C The oil is put into barrels.
- D The boats are lowered.
- E The whale is pulled to the boat.
- F Its head is cut off.
- G The whale is sighted.
- H The blubber is melted down into oil.
- I The boats chase the whale.

4 What Melville didn't know about whales

Read the text and fill in the gaps with the words in the box.

some ~~just~~ by such even however
which which everything

Moby Dick is not (0) ~~just~~ a novel; it is also a kind of whale encyclopaedia. Melville included something on every aspect of whales including art, literature, law, history and biology. Indeed, he seems to have mentioned



Humpback Whales in the singing position.

(1) that was known about whales in the 1800s.

(2), one important fact he did not know: whales sing.

This startling fact was discovered

(3) the biologist Roger Payne in the late 1960s. He decided to place a microphone underwater and see if the humpback whales made any sounds. Payne was pleasantly surprised: the whales made a whole series of strange clicks and groans.

It has also been discovered that the male humpback whale sings a kind of song (4) can last as long as 30 minutes. He sings it near female whales.

In March 2006 the researcher Ryuji Suzuki studied the songs of humpback whales with the help of computers. He discovered that the songs have some of the same complexities of human languages.

Other whales have voices too. Whales (5) as orcas, sperm whales and dolphins make rapid clicking noises that they use for echolocation, a kind of sonar. Echolocation is extremely precise: (6) whales can tell the size, shape, speed and even the texture of an object under water. A dolphin can

(7) distinguish objects that are a single centimetre long. In fact, some kinds of dolphins (8) live in rivers are blind: they move about and locate food using only echolocation.

INTERNET PROJECT

Singing and clicking

Connect to the Internet and go to www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. Insert the title of the book into our search engine. Open the page for *Moby Dick*. Click on the Internet project link. Go down the page until you find the title of this book and click on the relevant links for this project. Listen to some samples of whales singing and then talk about them with your partner.

- ▶ How would you describe the humpback song?
- ▶ What feelings do you have when you listen?
- ▶ What is a "whale mix"?
- ▶ Listen to a couple and give your opinion on them.
- ▶ Play the whale mix you like best for the class.



Whales of the Atlantic

Following is a brief perspective on some of the whales that live in the Atlantic Ocean. One of the whales we see is the Humpback Whale. Hunted to near extinction, the Humpback is now making a comeback. Humpback numbers are estimated to be over 15,000 today. Other common visitors are listed, as well as a few that are less common.

Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)



HUMPBACK WHALE: Although it is easily recognized by its long flippers and lumpy dorsal fin, the humpback is rare throughout the world, and few people are in a position to see one. These whales were once numerous, but they are slow swimmers and were, therefore, the first species taken whenever whalers moved into a new area. It is estimated that there are over 15,000 humpbacks left in the world. This is the "singing whale"; its songs have been the subject of several recordings, but we do not know why humpbacks sing, or even how they make these eerie, haunting sounds. Humpbacks have been extensively studied in their warm water breeding areas, particularly the West Indies, Bermuda, and Hawaii.

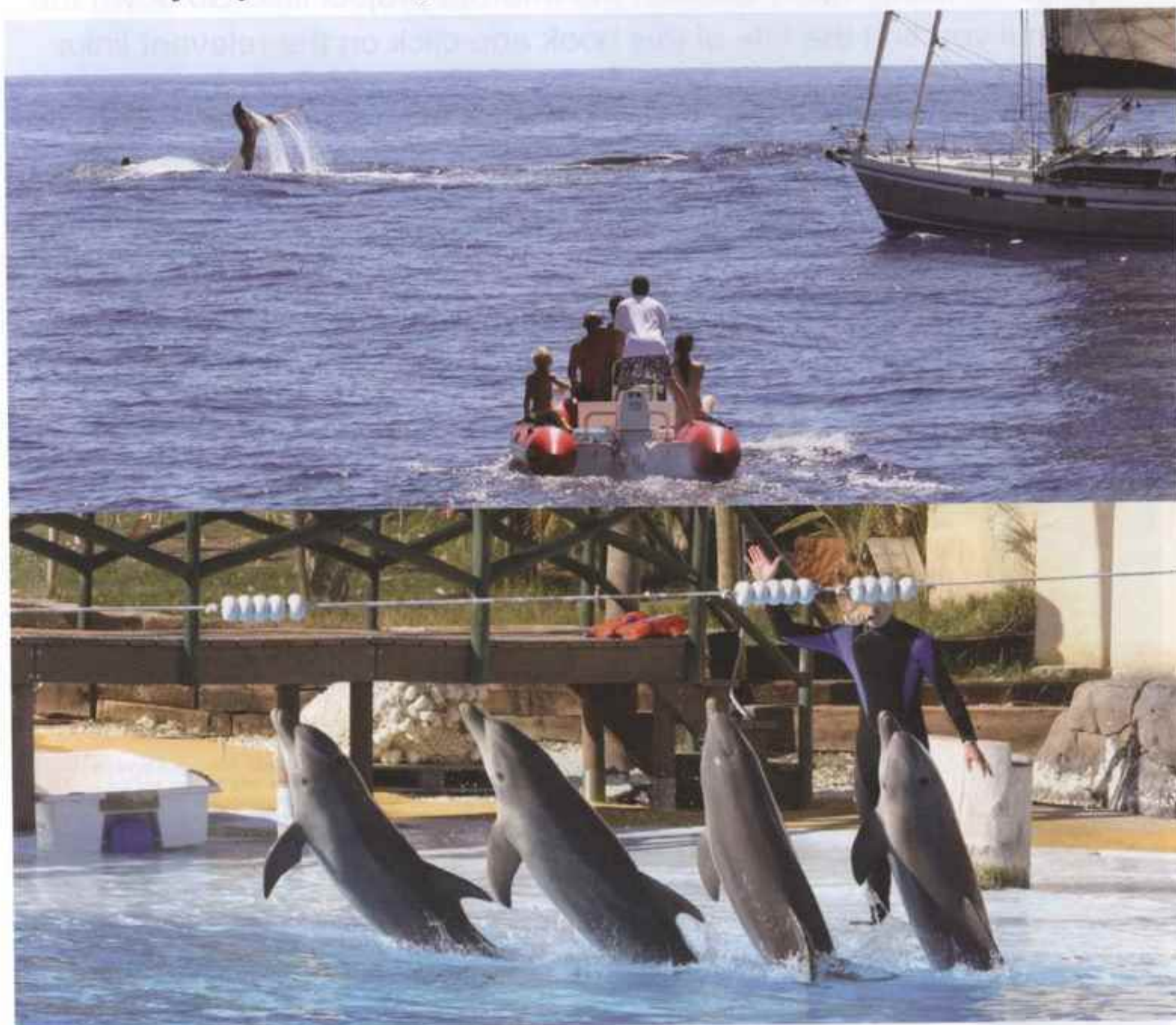
SPERM WHALE (*Physeter macrocephalus*)



SPERM WHALE: Although this is probably the most familiar of all the great whales (*Moby Dick* was a sperm whale), it is still one of the least-known of all large animals on Earth. The sperm whale is the only great whale with a single nostril at the end of its nose; all others have paired nostrils (called "blowholes") on top of their heads. In the nose there is a huge reservoir of clear oil, and we still don't know what it is used for. Nor do we know what the animal does with a 20 pound brain - the largest brain of any animal that has ever lived. Sperm whales are the undisputed deep-diving champions of the mammalian world: they can hold their breath for an hour and a half, and descend to depths of 3,500 feet or more. Although it was heavily hunted in the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, the sperm whale is now protected throughout most of its world-wide range.

FCE 5 Speaking

In pairs, look at these photographs of human beings with sea mammals. Compare and contrast them. Which activity do you approve of? How do you think the whales are feeling? Which job would you prefer? Why?



6 Discussion

A What do you think of circuses and other shows that use animals? Have you ever seen one?

B Work in pairs (or divide the class in two). One student thinks that using whales in shows at marine parks is acceptable and the other is against it. Talk about the points below:

- many people see these shows and so get to know about whales
- most whales in captivity die young
- it is undignified for animals
- we can learn more about whales from those in captivity

'Even though I hunted whales...'

Even though and **although** have similar meanings. **Even though** expresses a little more surprise than **although**. They are both followed by verbs.

- *Even though I hunted whales, I could not see them as all bad.*
= I hunted whales, but I could not see them as all bad.
- *Although he has hunted whales for years, he is still afraid of them.*
= He has hunted whales for years but he is still afraid of them.

7 Even though and but

Connect the following sentences using *even though* and *but*. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0 The sharks continued eating the whale corpse. Queequeg hit them with his harpoon.

Queequeg hit them with his harpoon, but the sharks continued eating the whale corpse.

Even though Queequeg hit them with his harpoon, the sharks continued eating the whale corpse.

- 1 Queequeg had a very frightening appearance. He was a very kind person.
- 2 They decided to sail on the *Pequod*. Elijah told Queequeg and Ishmael that the *Pequod* was doomed.
- 3 Ahab was only interested in killing Moby Dick. Many people's livelihood depended on the success of the *Pequod*.
- 4 Moby Dick was still alive. Many whalers had tried to kill Moby Dick.
- 5 Queequeg was not at all upset. Queequeg and Ishmael had almost drowned while hunting a whale.
- 6 Whales are only animals. Ahab considered Moby Dick evil.
- 7 Stubb did it. It was very difficult to cut off a whale's head on the rough sea.
- 8 Stubb celebrated his kill. Ahab did not care that Stubb had killed a whale.
- 9 Ahab did not die. Moby Dick bit off Ahab's leg.
- 10 The whale was not Moby Dick. Ahab told them to lower the boats.

A Short History *of Whaling*

Whaling in Europe

The first whalers were probably men who lived in what is now South Korea. Pictures carved in rock from thousands of years ago show these men hunting whales in their canoes.

But it was the Basques of northeastern Spain and southwestern France who developed whaling methods that men used for hundreds of years. During the 900s the Basque whalers went whaling in small open boats. After killing a whale they towed¹ the body to shore where other men cut off the blubber and cooked it to get the whale oil. They then returned out to sea to continue hunting. For centuries whale oil was very important because it was used as fuel for lanterns, lamps and for cooking.

The Basques began hunting whales in big sailing ships in the 1200s. Each ship carried many small whale boats from which the men harpooned the whales. After killing a whale the men cut off the blubber. When they had a full load of blubber they sailed home, where the blubber was cooked.

In the early 1600s bigger whaling ships were built, with enough space both to get and to store the whale oil and other products from the whales' bodies. So the Basques started staying at sea for longer periods of time.

The Basques hunted the "right whale" more than any other. It was considered the "right" or the best whale to hunt because it swam

1. **towed** : pulled by the ship.

close to shore, it contained large amounts of oil and its body did not sink after it was killed.

In the 1600s the English and the Dutch learned the whaling methods of the Basques, and they began sailing to the Arctic to hunt the Arctic right whale. Whaling became an important and profitable business.

Whaling in America

The American Indians hunted right whales off the Atlantic Coast long before the English colonists arrived in the 1600s. They went whaling in their canoes and used harpoons with points made of stone, bone or wood.



American Indians pull harpooned whales to shore (about 1590)
by Theodor de Bry.

During the 1760s colonists in New Bedford, Massachusetts, started a small whaling industry which became very successful, and this town later became the whaling capital of the world.

At first American whalers hunted only the right whale and the Arctic right whale or bowhead. These whales provided whalebone (baleen) for women's corsets and hoopskirts,¹ which were stylish at that time. Manufacturers also used baleen to make umbrellas, fishing rods, whips and other things that had to be strong, light and flexible.

About 1815 Americans began hunting the sperm whale more than any other kind, because this creature provided not only whale oil but also spermaceti and other substances.

The greatest period of American whaling began in the 1830s and lasted for about fifty years; and this was when Melville wrote *Moby Dick* (1851). The United States was the leading whaling nation until the 1880s. In the 1840s there were about 750 American whaling ships, and nearly all of them came from New England ports – New Bedford, Nantucket and Boston. On the Pacific Coast, San Francisco became the chief whaling port.

The Decline of American Whaling

The decline of the American whaling industry was caused by two major events: the birth of the petroleum industry and the Civil War. The American petroleum industry began in 1859, when Edwin Drake drilled² an oil well near Titusville, Pennsylvania. Soon other men started drilling thousands of oil wells in the Pennsylvania hills.

1. corsets and hoopskirts :



2. drilled : made a hole in the ground.



Capturing a Sperm Whale by J. Hill (1835).

Petroleum became a very big and profitable business in many American states, particularly in Texas.

In less than three years the price of a barrel of petroleum dropped from \$20 to only 10 cents. Until this time whale oil had been the main fuel for lamps. Now people began using kerosene, a petroleum product instead. Kerosene was cheaper than whale oil and became the main product of the petroleum industry of the late 1800s.

During the Civil War (1861-65), Confederate warships sank a great number of whaling ships on the east coast – about half the fleet.

During the late 1800s, America did not keep up with the whaling industries of other countries which began using harpoon guns and steamships, and by the beginning of the twentieth century America had only about forty whaling ships.

Before you read



1 Listening

You will hear about Ahab's reaction to a problem aboard the *Pequod*. For questions 1-6, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

- 1 Ahab was usually
 - A on the deck.
 - B in his cabin.
 - C with his sailors.
- 2 Ahab became more and more
 - A depressed.
 - B angry.
 - C alert.
- 3 The crew thought the gold coin could
 - A help them locate Moby Dick.
 - B help them catch whales.
 - C protect them from Moby Dick.
- 4 What was wrong with the barrels?
 - A There were too few of them.
 - B They were too full of oil.
 - C They were losing oil.
- 5 Ahab thinks that the problem with the barrels is
 - A imaginary.
 - B very serious.
 - C unimportant.
- 6 Starbuck tells the captain that his real enemy is
 - A Fedallah.
 - B Moby Dick.
 - C Ahab himself.



The *Nisshin Maru*, a factory ship in a Japanese whaling fleet, cuts across the path of the **Greenpeace** ship *MV Arctic Sunrise* (8, January 2006). Greenpeace had followed the Japanese whaling fleet in the Southern Ocean for two weeks.

Today whale hunting is very controversial all over the world. Environmentalists believe that it is wrong to hunt and kill whales, but some countries continue hunting them for commercial reasons.

1 Comprehension check

Say whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), and then correct the false ones.

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Whaling began in the Basque region of Europe. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Basque whalers hunted whales from large ships. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 The right whale got its name from the fact that it was considered the right whale to hunt. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 The American Indians learned to hunt whales from the English and Dutch. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 The baleen of whales was used to make women's clothing. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 The United States became the most important whaling country in the 1700s. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Petroleum replaced whale oil in the early 1900s. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

CHAPTER EIGHT

Queequeg's Coffin



The months passed and we continued hunting whales.

Captain Ahab spent most of his time below the deck in his cabin. He studied his charts and maps and the movement of sperm whales. His obsession with Moby Dick filled his days and his nights.

When Ahab came on deck he walked noisily from bow to stern, and often stopped to stare at the sea. He looked more and more angry. The whales we had caught and the barrels of oil we had stored meant nothing to him.

Ahab often stood in front of the mast where the gold coin was nailed. It was still shiny; it was made of pure gold and we felt it was sacred. It was from South America. On it were images of palm trees, alpacas, volcanoes, stars and suns. It had a Spanish poetic quality. On its round border you could read the

words "Republica del Ecuador: Quito". So this bright coin came from a country beneath the great equator, up in the Andes mountains.

For Ahab the coin represented his determination to make the voyage a success. Starbuck, being a religious man, saw the Trinity in the coin. Stubb, instead, saw the signs of the zodiac in it, and the promise of a lot of money. When Flask looked at it he thought about how many cigars he could buy.

It was our good luck charm — it might help us find Moby Dick.

One evening, while Ahab was looking at his maps, Starbuck came to his cabin. He was worried, and said, "We have a serious problem, Captain. The barrels of oil are leaking — they're losing precious whale oil! We have to check all of the barrels."

"Let the barrels leak! I don't care!" said Ahab.

"You don't care!" cried Starbuck in despair. "What will the owners say, sir? When we return to Nantucket after this long voyage the owners will want to see whole oil-barrels full of whale oil! We don't have a choice — we have to check all of the barrels. That way we can see which barrels are leaking and mend them." Starbuck's face was bright red.

"It will take too long," Ahab cried angrily. "We're approaching Japan soon and my maps say we are sure to find Moby Dick in those waters. We're *not* stopping to fix some old barrels!"

"We've traveled over twenty thousand miles to find this oil — we can't lose it now," said Starbuck, trying to be calm.

At this point Ahab lost control and pulled a gun from the rack¹ on the wall and pointed it at Starbuck.

1. **rack** : a shelf that holds guns.

Ahab was furious, and said, "Remember, there is one God to rule over the earth, and there is one captain to rule over this ship. And I am the lord and master here! Now go!"

Starbuck stared bravely at his captain and said, "I could tell you to beware¹ of me, but you would laugh. But I'm telling you to beware of yourself — *you* are your greatest enemy."

END

Starbuck turned around and started walking away. Ahab called out, "You talk bravely but I see you still obey me."

Starbuck continued walking away. Ahab then spoke to himself, "You think I'm my greatest enemy? Yes, there's truth in that." Then he called Starbuck back.

"Starbuck," he said in a sad, low voice, "you're a good man. Tell the mates to empty the hold where the barrels are and find the leaks. Go!" Ahab put the gun back on the rack.

Starbuck ordered the crew to bring the barrels out of the hold and everyone worked to find the barrels which were leaking. It was a hard job to move and examine all the heavy barrels. It was terribly hot and damp in the hold. Queequeg put all of his strength into his work and soon became very ill with a high fever.

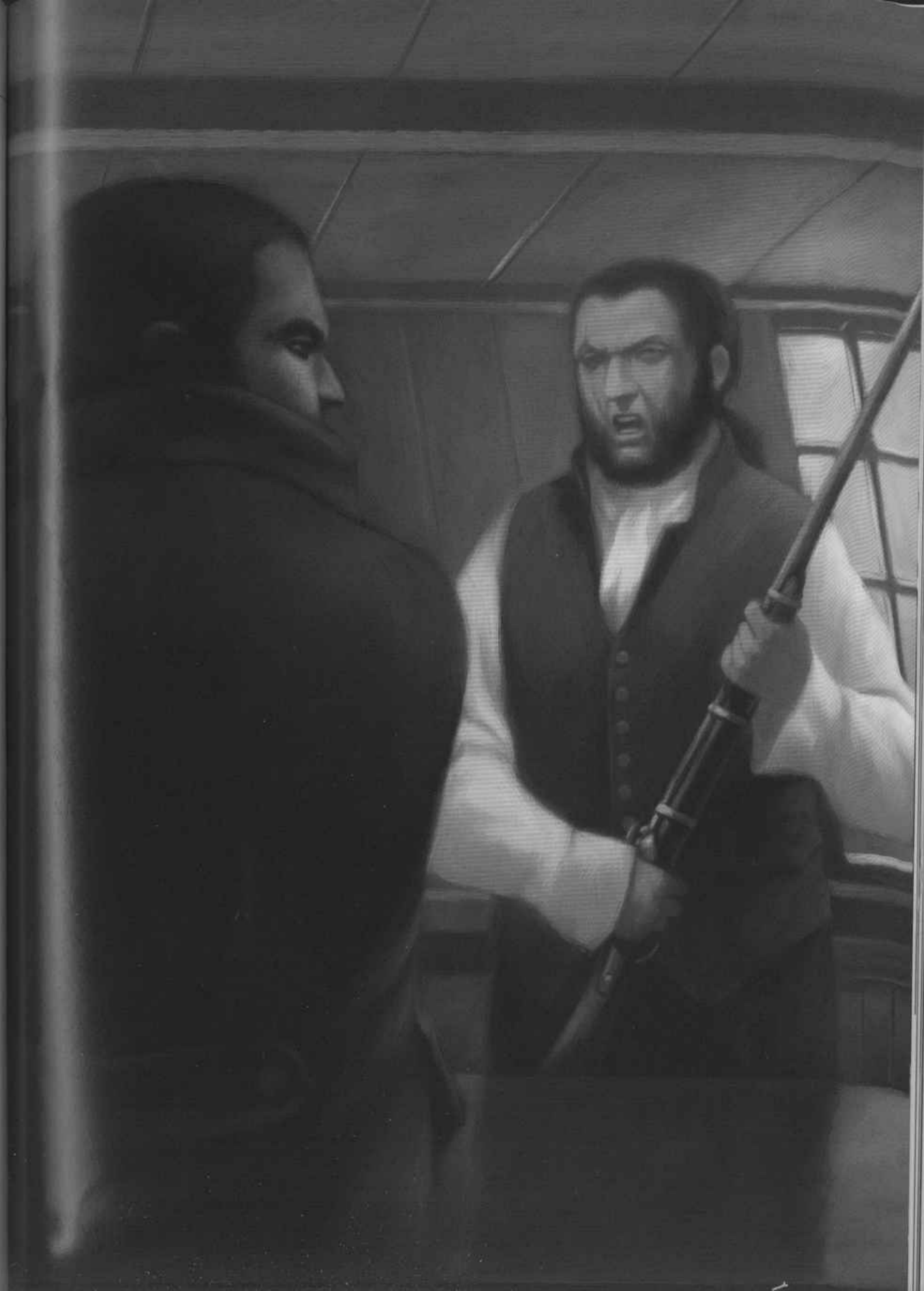
"What's wrong, Queequeg?" I asked, but he could not hear me. He had a strange look on his face as he lay on the deck.

"Queequeg, say something to me!" I said nervously. I felt his forehead and it was burning and wet with sweat.

I helped him to his feet and another crew member and I took him to his hammock. He had never been ill before.

"I'm going to get the ship's doctor!" I said.

1. **beware** : watch out, be careful.



“No!” said Queequeg with a weak voice. “Get carpenter for me.”

“The carpenter? Are you crazy?”

“Get carpenter,” he repeated.

“Please tell me why,” I said.

Queequeg explained that he had once seen coffins in Nantucket and they reminded him of the funeral canoes of his people.

He liked this idea because on his island people were sent out to sea in a canoe when they died.

When a sailor died at sea his body was put inside his hammock and then thrown into the water, where he was usually eaten by sharks. Queequeg did not want this to happen to him.

“Get carpenter,” he said again. “He make my canoe.”

I did not want my dear friend to die, but I did not want him to get upset. So I called the ship’s carpenter and he carefully took Queequeg’s measurements and built him a coffin. When it was ready Queequeg got inside because he wanted to try it out. Inside he had a paddle¹ for his trip to the other world and his little idol Yojo. Then he asked for the steel head of his harpoon. He closed his eyes peacefully and lay still inside his new coffin.

I knelt down beside him and felt terribly sad and lonely. I thought about our wonderful friendship; I did not want it to end like this.

How could Queequeg possibly die? He was the strongest man on the *Pequod*. He had saved many men from death. Was this his

1. paddle :



time to die? A young sailor played the tambourine¹ and it sounded like Queequeg's funeral march.

I have discovered that there is a big difference between primitive people and modern people. Modern people get sick and sometimes it takes them many months to get well. But primitive people can easily get better in a day.

Luckily, that is what happened to Queequeg.

He suddenly got up from his coffin and climbed out.

"Queequeg not dead!" he said with a loud voice. "I remember something Queequeg not do. Queequeg die another day."

He got better as quickly as he got sick, and we could not understand why.

We asked him if dying depended on our will and his answer was, "Certainly!"

We were very surprised and happy that he was well again. His coffin became a sea chest where he kept his clothes and his idol Yojo. He even started decorating the top of the coffin with the same strange designs he had on his body.

1. tambourine :



The text and **beyond**

1 Comprehension check

Connect the beginnings in column A with the endings in column B. There are four endings in column B that you do not need to use.

A

- 1 Ahab studied his charts and maps
- 2 Starbuck entered Ahab's cabin
- 3 Starbuck cared about the barrels
- 4 Ahab pointed a gun at Starbuck
- 5 The crew pulled the barrels out of the hold
- 6 Queequeg became ill
- 7 Queequeg asked for the carpenter
- 8 Queequeg wanted to have a coffin
- 9 Ishmael felt very sad
- 10 Queequeg did not die

B

- A because he thought his friend was going to die.
- B because they had to find the leaks.
- C because he was frightened.
- D because he didn't want to die.
- E because he needed a sea chest.
- F because he was furious.
- G because he wanted a coffin.
- H because he needed a canoe.
- I because he wanted to find Moby Dick.
- J because he still had something to do.
- K because his main interest was oil and not Moby Dick.
- L because he didn't want the sharks to eat his body.
- M because he had worked too hard.
- N because he wanted to tell him about the leaking barrels.

FCE 2 **Tattooing: the devil's art**

For questions 1-15, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).



Melville tells us that the patterns on Queequeg's face and then (0) *carved*..... on his coffin had great (1) value. This is based on fact. Melville took his (2) for Queequeg from a real-life New Zealand king of the Maori people named Te Pehi Kupe, who came to England in 1826. Te Pehi's face was (3) covered with an intricate tattoo called Ta Matu. For the Maori people this kind of tattoo had (4) meanings.

First of all, it was a kind of identity card or (5) "European man writes with a pen his name — Te Pehi's name is here," Te Pehi himself said, pointing to his (6) face.

The Ta Matu at that time was worn by the Maori (7) — it showed their rank, genealogy and also their courage in battle. The process of (8) the Ta Matu was long and very (9) and took up to a month to finish, and a year to (10) get better.

Tattooing is an ancient Polynesian tradition that has been handed down from person to person for more than 2000 years. Since the (11) of the Europeans in the late 1600s and early 1700s, tattoos have gone through many changes. First, they were often admired by Europeans, and became (12) not only with (13) but also with the aristocracy. Ironically, the European (14) in Polynesia

CARVE
SPIRIT

INSPIRE

ENTIRE

NUMBER

SIGN

TATTOO

ROYAL

APPLY

PAIN

COMPLETE

ARRIVE

FASHION

SAIL

MISSION

considered them the "devil's art" and tried to suppress this important part of Polynesian culture.

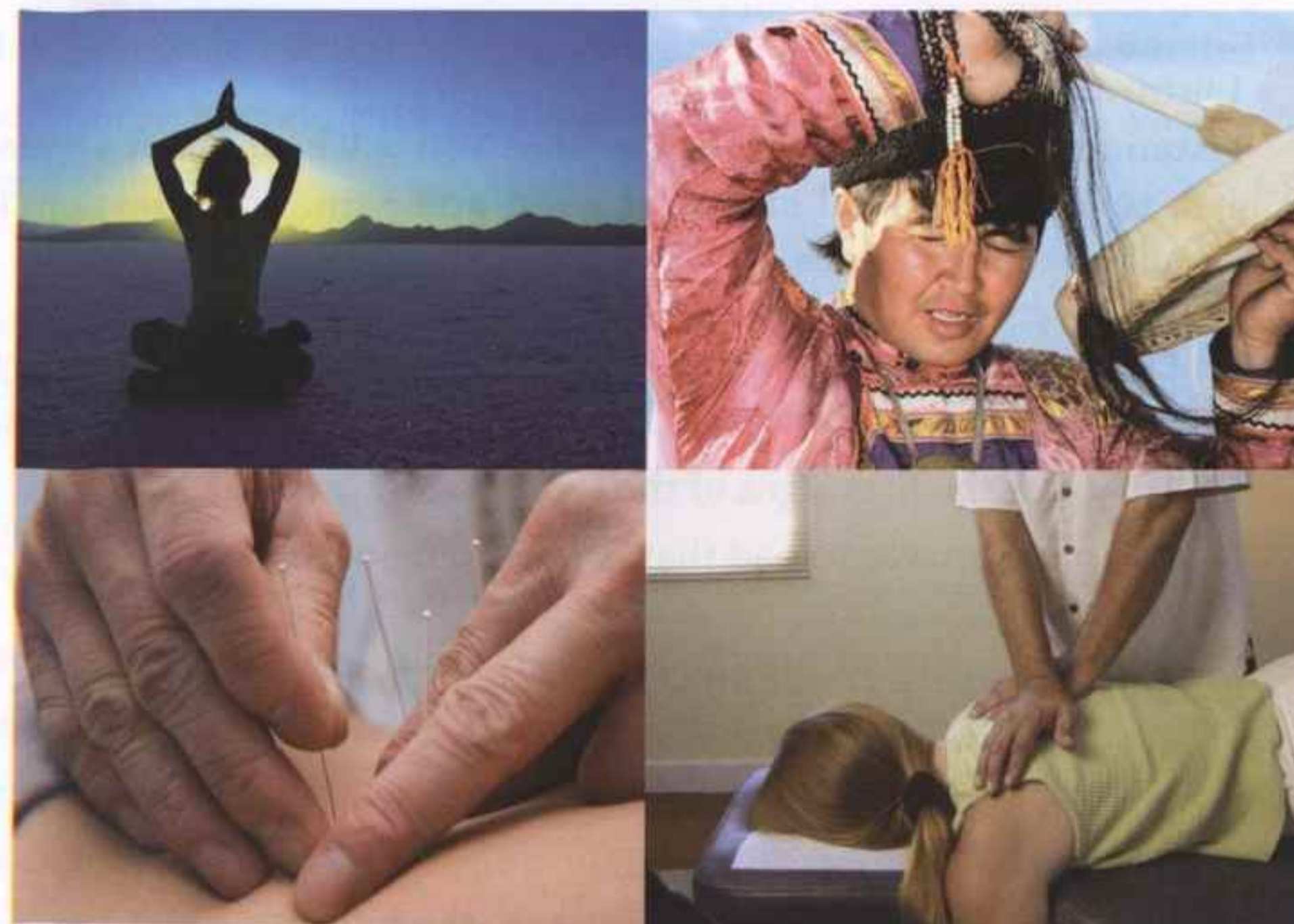
However, much of this art has survived, and in the 1980s a (15) began in New Zealand, Hawaii and other parts of Polynesia. Nowadays, Ta Matu is once again an important part of Maori culture.

REVIVE

T: GRADE 6

3 **Speaking: health**

Ten or fifteen years ago, many people in Western countries would have doubted Queequeg's rapid recovery. Now, though, the so-called alternative forms of medicine are very common, and most Europeans and Americans are very familiar with other medical traditions and ideas. Look at the pictures below. What is name of these various medical and health practices? What are the geographical areas of origin?



talk about alternative medicine. Use these questions to help you.

- 1 What kinds of non-Western medicine do you know?
- 2 Do you think it is effective? Why or why not?
- 3 Have you, or somebody you know, ever used any of these traditional health or medical practices?

Before you read

1 Reading pictures

A Look at the picture on pages 104-105.

- 1 What is happening to the *Pequod*?
- 2 Do you notice anything strange about the ship?

B Look at the picture on page 109.

- 1 There is the captain of another ship with Ahab. What is he doing?
- 2 What do you think Ahab's reaction will be?



2 Listening

Listen to the first part of Chapter Nine. You will hear about a typhoon – a terrible tropical storm of wind and rain. For questions 1-9 complete the sentences.

- 1 Even though they did not, they did kill many whales. Ahab wanted to to the Japanese sea.
- 2 They saw the first signs of the typhoon on
- 3 The typhoon was so bad that Ishmael did not think that
- 4 In the middle of the storm, the crew did their best to
- 5 The "candles" was the name of the lights which Ishmael saw at
- 6 This strange fire the sailors.
- 7 Starbuck wanted Ahab
- 8 Ahab did not care about the typhoon because
- 9 Ahab thought the fire would



CHAPTER NINE

The Candles

0 Our long voyage continued and we were able to hunt many whales and fill more barrels with precious whale oil. But there still was no sign of Moby Dick. **10**

Whenever the *Pequod* met another whaling ship, Ahab's question was always the same, "Have you seen the white whale?" But none of the whaling ships had seen Moby Dick.

"East!" shouted Ahab. "We must sail East – he's there, in the Japanese sea."

1 We sailed East to the middle of the Japanese sea and the wind started blowing hard and the sea became rough. Black clouds appeared on the eastern horizon, and that night there was the worst storm I had ever seen. The thunder and lightning never seemed to stop. The *Pequod* was in the middle of a terrible typhoon¹ and I didn't think we could survive. It rained violently and the ship was thrown in every direction.

The crew was on deck trying to hold down the whaling boats. Then it was night and the worst part of the typhoon hit us. The violent wind

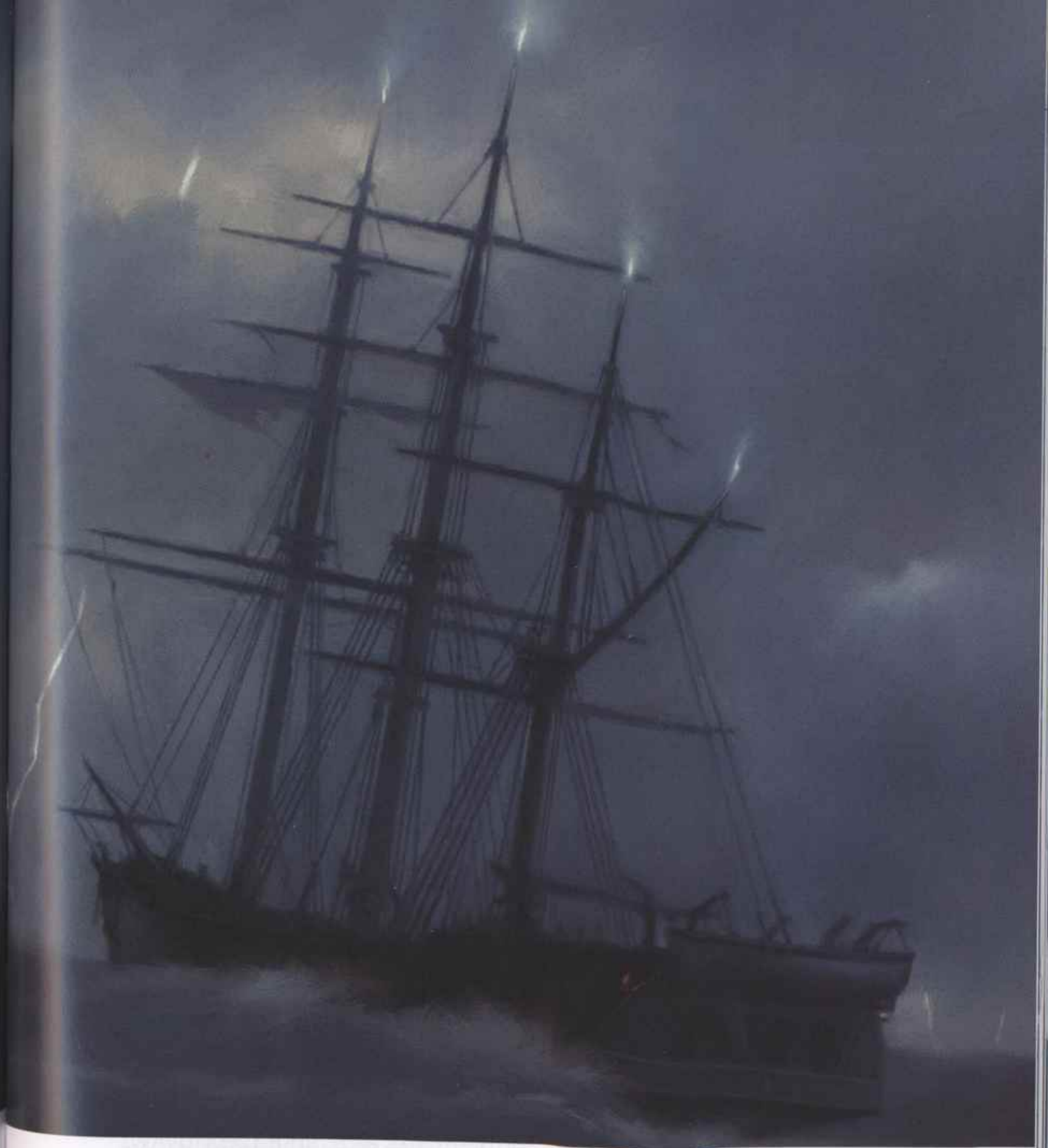
1. **typhoon** : a very strong tropical storm in the Pacific Ocean.



and rain tore the sails and broke the masts and the towering waves flooded the deck.

2 Suddenly I looked up at the masts and saw lights at the tips of the sails — they looked like candles.¹

1. **lights at ... candles** : a natural phenomenon of blue-white lights that appear and disappear on pointed objects during a thunderstorm.



The sailors stood close together and stared in amazement at the fire that danced in the sky.

“This is a bad omen — a very bad omen!” said Starbuck nervously. “Tell the captain to turn the ship around.”

The crew agreed with him and believed that Ahab’s obsession with the white whale was the cause of this.

3 “Turn the ship around!” cried the crew angrily. “Turn it around!” Ahab finally came on deck. The violent typhoon and the fire meant something completely different to him. He was more determined than ever.

“Look at that fire in the sky!” he cried, pointing to the sky in the middle of the wild storm. “That white fire leads us to the white whale!”

“No, Ahab,” cried Starbuck, the rain pouring on his face, “turn the ship around or we will sail to our death!” He grabbed Ahab’s arm desperately and cried, “God is against you, Ahab! This voyage is doomed. It was doomed from the start. Let’s get out of here while there’s still hope!”

Ahab was not listening and he moved away from Starbuck. He shook his fist¹ at the fire.

“Oh, great fire,” shouted Ahab, “I burn with you! You light the way to the white whale! I am not afraid.”

“Look at your boat, Ahab!” cried Starbuck, as the frightened crew stared at their captain. “The storm has almost destroyed it and your harpoon is burning!”

4 Ahab went to get the burning harpoon and waved it among the crew like a torch.

“If any man turns this ship around I’ll put this harpoon through his heart!” shouted Ahab fiercely, “Remember, you all swore to hunt the white whale with me, and we will hunt it! We are in this together and we will not turn back. No storm can stop me! No one can stop me!”

“He’s... mad,” said Starbuck to the crew, “he’s afraid of nothing and no one — not even God!”

1. fist :



END

5 The typhoon continued most of the night, but the next morning the sea was calm again and the sky was clear. Starbuck went down to Ahab’s cabin. Before entering he stood near the door and looked at the guns on the wall. He remembered when Ahab had threatened him before.

“If I take a gun and kill this madman,” he thought, “I could take the *Pequod* home and save the lives of all the men on this ship — I’ll see my wife Mary and my little boy. How can I stop this madman? I know it’s wrong to kill — isn’t there another way? I could make him a prisoner until the ship reaches a port. But he would be worse than a tiger in a cage. No! Only a fool would make Ahab a prisoner. Oh, God, help me! If I let him live we will all die, thousands of miles from our home. What shall I do? Great God, help me!”

Starbuck stood in front of Ahab’s cabin trembling and then returned to the deck.

6 The violent typhoon had almost destroyed our ship and we were lucky that we did not lose any men. We slowly cleaned the deck, and repaired the masts and the sails. However, the *Pequod* was not the same ship: the typhoon had taken the life out of it.

At times like these I asked myself if old Elijah was right. Were we really doomed?

“Alright, men,” said Starbuck, “let’s start sailing again!” He was tired but not discouraged. He knew we had a job to do and he worked as hard as any member of the crew.

7 One day Starbuck called the crew, “All hands on deck!”

“What’s the problem?” asked Stubb.

“There’s a ship approaching!” replied Starbuck.

“Hurrah!” cheered the crew happily. We had not seen another ship in a long time and we hoped to receive some news from home. We all ran to the deck.

Ahab did not like these gams because they took time away from his hunt for Moby Dick.

When the two ships were almost side by side I could see the name of the visiting ship — she was the *Rachel*.

Ahab asked the same thing every time there was a gam. “Have you seen the white whale?” he shouted.

The captain of the *Rachel* shouted back, “Yes, yesterday.”

Ahab was overjoyed. Then the captain asked, “Have you seen a whale boat?”

“No, I haven’t,” shouted Ahab.

In a minute the captain of the *Rachel* came aboard the *Pequod*, and Ahab recognized him because both captains were from Nantucket.

“Where was he?” asked Ahab excitedly. “You didn’t kill him, did you? Tell me!”

“No,” replied Gardiner, the captain of the *Rachel*.

Ahab was relieved because he wanted the white whale all for himself.

The captain of the *Rachel* then looked at Ahab with a strange expression.

8 “Three of our fastest whaling boats went out to hunt him but he escaped and we lost some of our men. One of those men is my son — I must find him. You’ll help me, won’t you, Ahab? I’ll pay for your time, anything you ask. But, please, Ahab, join in the search — help me find my son. Together we can find him!” Gardiner’s mouth trembled and there were tears in his eyes. “My son is lost with the other men on the boat. I know he’s somewhere in these seas and he’s alone. I can almost hear him cry for help! Please, Ahab, help me find my lost son!”

Ahab stood as cold as stone.



"I would do the same for you if your son were lost. I won't go until you say yes!" Gardiner cried.

So Ahab has a son and a wife, I thought. I could hardly believe that such a man had a family at home waiting for his return.

- 9 "Captain Gardiner, I won't do it. I have no time for such matters. The white whale is near and I must hunt him. I'm sorry about your... problem, but I can't help you."

Gardiner was very disappointed and returned to his ship.

We could not believe what we had just heard. Ahab had lost all humanity. What had he become? But none of us could say a word. The two ships went their separate ways — the *Pequod* to hunt the white whale and the *Rachel* to find Gardiner's lost son.

- 10 After a few days Ahab was on deck staring at the blue, cloudless horizon while Starbuck stood next to him.

"Oh, Starbuck!" said Ahab. "It's such a beautiful day — my first day at sea forty years ago was like this. Forty years have passed, forty years of whaling! When I think of the life I've led — the hard work, the loneliness, the hunger and thirst, the hot and cold. I married my wife between voyages and have been away from my family most of the time. Starbuck, look at me. Do I look as old as I feel?"

Starbuck was amazed by Ahab's words and so was I.

"Oh, my Captain!" cried Starbuck, hopefully. "You have a heart, after all! I have a wife and child too. Oh, Ahab! Let's go home to our families. Let's go back to Nantucket! Turn the ship around!"

Ahab looked at the sea and asked, "What is it that drives me on? Is it me? Or is it God? Is this my fate? Must I hunt the white whale?" He paused for a moment and then cried, "No, Ahab must go on! The white whale is my fate!"

Starbuck had lost all hope — Ahab was a victim of his madness.

The text and **beyond**

1 Comprehension check

Answer the following questions.

- 1 What meaning did Starbuck and the crew give to the fire?
- 2 What meaning did Ahab give to it?
- 3 What two reasons did Ahab give the crew for not returning home?
- 4 Starbuck thought of two ways of stopping Ahab. What were they?
- 5 Why did he decide not to try them?
- 6 What good news did Captain Gardiner give Ahab?
- 7 How did the meeting with the *Rachel* show that Ahab had lost his humanity?
- 8 What did Ishmael discover about Ahab's private life?
- 9 How did Ahab surprise Starbuck?

2 Summary

Chapter Nine has been divided into eleven parts. Choose from the list A-K the sentence which best summarises each part (1-10) of the chapter.

There is an example for you (0).

- A I'll kill you if you break your promise!
- B How can he be so unfeeling?
- C Our future looks bad!
- D They get things back in order.
- E I will help you if you help me.
- F For one it's victory, for the other death.
- G For a short moment, he's human again.
- H The choice is so difficult he does nothing.
- I He finally gets some good news.
- J Things are going well but not for him.
- K The ship's nearly lost.

3 The Sinking of the *Essex*

In 1841 the young Herman Melville set sail on the whaler the *Acushnet*. While the ship was sailing in the Pacific Ocean, it encountered another ship and the two crews “gammed”. Young Herman met another young man named Henry Chase. Henry told Herman about his father Owen, who had been the first mate on another whaler, the *Essex*. Henry even gave Herman a copy of a book written by his father: *Narrative of the Most Extraordinary and Distressing Shipwreck of the Whale-Ship Essex of Nantucket; Which Was Attacked and Finally Destroyed by a Large Spermaceti-Whale in the Pacific Ocean*. Herman later wrote that “the reading of this story so close to the very latitude of the shipwreck had a surprising effect on me”. In fact, it later inspired him to write *Moby Dick*.

Now read a description of the voyage of the *Essex*. Five paragraphs have been removed. Choose from the paragraphs A-F the one which fits each gap (1-4). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

On August 12, 1819, the whaling ship the *Essex* with a crew of 20 set sail from Nantucket for the Pacific Ocean. Its captain, George Pollard, was only 29 years old, and its first mate, Owen Chase, only 23. After a long voyage around Cape Horn, they arrived in the middle of the Pacific Ocean near the Galapagos. On November 20, 1820 they saw a large group of sperm whales. It was a beautiful, clear day with a bit of wind: the perfect day for a whale hunt.

- 0 This time it knocked a hole in the ship, and Owen knew immediately that the ship was going to sink. For the rest of his life he was obsessed by memories of the whale's attack. He even believed that the whale had attacked the *Essex* for revenge.
- 1 Captain Pollard said that it would be best to sail for Tahiti: they had good winds and enough food for that journey. However, his first mate, Owen, and his second mate, Matthew Joy, disagreed. They said that there were cannibals in Tahiti and that it was too dangerous. They convinced Pollard to sail for Easter Island, and then to sail for Chile. They estimated that it would be a 54-day journey.

- 2 But soon they ate all their food, and on January 20, 1821, Joy died and his body was thrown into the sea. The boats were then separated by storms.
- 3 Finally, Chase's boat was rescued after 89 days, and Pollard's boat after 94 days. The third boat was never seen again. These two open boats had travelled nearly 5,000 miles, the most incredible open-boat journey in history.
- 4 Chase, too, became a captain and commanded two successful voyages. Unfortunately, he had to stop sailing because he started suffering from severe headaches, probably connected to his experience with the *Essex*. As an old man, he began to hide large amounts of food in the attic of his house, and towards the end of his life he went mad.
- A Soon, the other whale boats returned to the ship. Their situation was desperate: they were in the middle of the Pacific Ocean with only three open boats. They quickly made plans. First, they got the water, food and tools they could from the ship before it sank. Then they made sails for their three 30-foot-long boats. Finally they talked about where to go.
- B Both Pollard and Chase returned to Nantucket, and they were both forgiven for their horrible actions. Pollard became the captain of another ship, but this ship was also shipwrecked. Pollard returned again to Nantucket, but now he had the reputation of being an “unlucky captain”. He spent the last years of his life working as a night watchman. Melville met Pollard at this point in his life. He wrote that Pollard, even though he was very humble, was “the most impressive man that I had ever met.”
- C The boats were lowered and the hunt began. Unfortunately, a whale hit Owen's boat with its tail and made a hole in it. Owen hurried back to the ship to repair it. While he was repairing it, he noticed a gigantic male sperm whale about 100 feet from the ship. Amazingly, the whale began to charge the ship. It hit it once, and then swam away, but then it turned around and charged again.

- D As time went on, other men died and were thrown to sea. But now there was no food at all and when other men died they were not thrown into the sea: they were eaten. What is worse, on February 1 Pollard's boat was again without food. They decided to see who would be eaten in this way: they each took a small piece of wood, and the person who took the smallest would be eaten. Ironically, Pollard's 17-year-old cousin Owen Coffin lost. He was then killed and eaten.
- E The boats finally reached Tahiti, where they stayed for several weeks. Unfortunately, they were attacked by cannibals and had to set sail again. This time they decided to sail for Chile.
- F Incredibly, these three small open boats arrived at a small island near Easter Island on December 20. They found some water and some bird eggs to eat. It was clear, though, that 20 men could not survive on this small island. So, the three boats set sail again for Chile.

Before you read

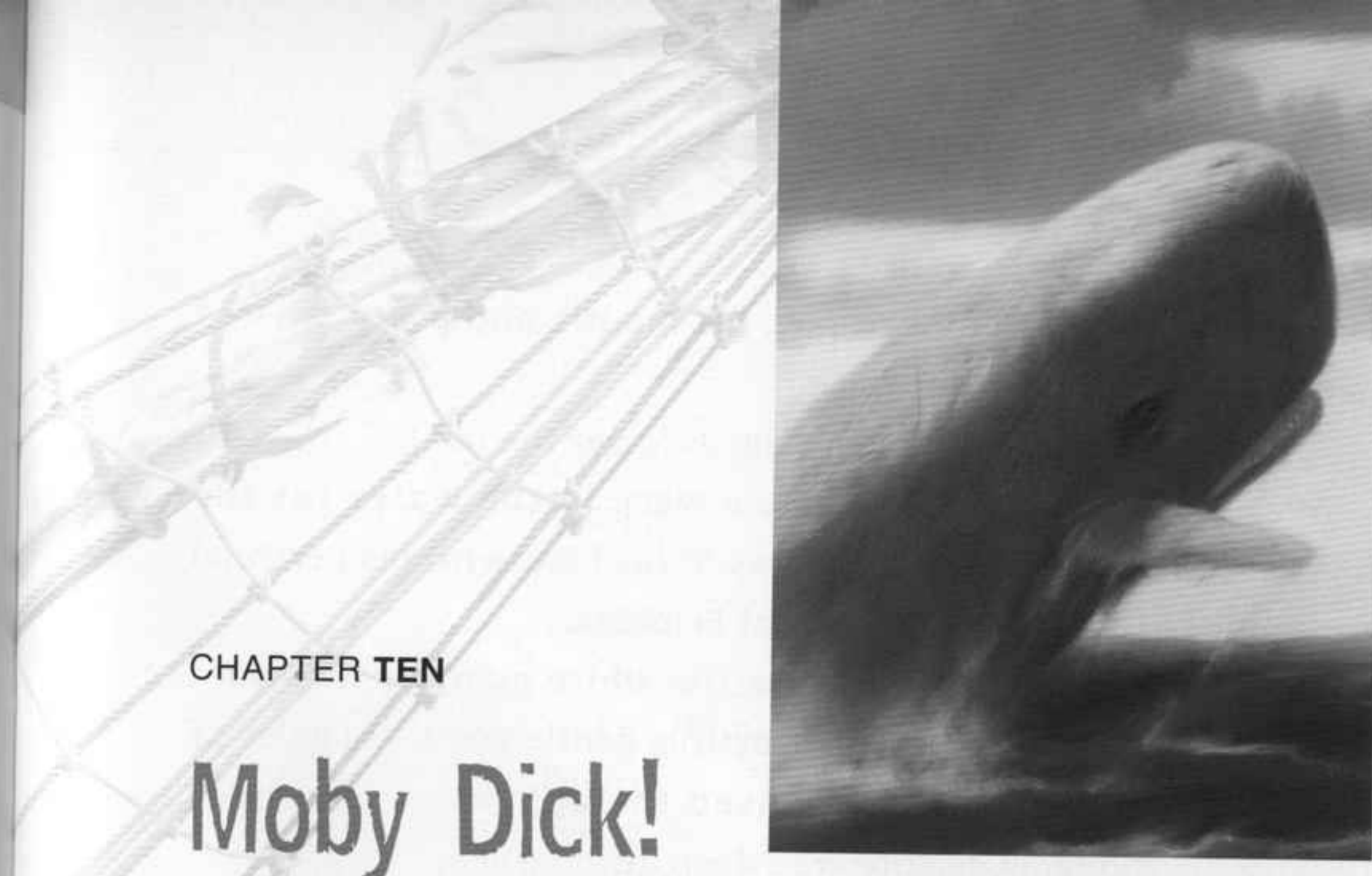
11 **1** Listening

This opening section contains four similes – comparisons using *like*: for example, *Her face is like a rose*. Listen to the beginning of Chapter Ten, and discover what is compared to:

- 1 fire
- 2 a snowy hill
- 3 glass
- 4 an open tomb (a building where important dead people are kept)

2 Now listen again and answer the following questions.

- 1 How does Ahab know that Moby Dick is near?
- 2 Who gets the gold coin?
- 3 Who moves joyfully?
- 4 What is the white spot?
- 5 What happens to Ahab's boat?



CHAPTER TEN

Moby Dick!

It was the night of the beautiful day and Ahab was on deck sniffing the sea air, trying to catch the smell of a whale. Suddenly his eyes glowed like fire and he cried, "I'm going up to the masthead! I smell the white whale!" The crew pulled him up in a kind of basket to the masthead, and then we heard a cry.

"There she blows! There she blows! A hump like a snowy hill! It's Moby Dick! The coin is mine! It was fate! None of you could see him, only I!"

Ahab had seen the white whale before anyone else and the gold coin was his.

"But I saw him almost at the same instant that Captain Ahab did, and I cried out!" said Tashtego.

"None of you saw it when I saw it – no, the gold coin is mine – Moby Dick is mine!" cried Ahab. "Lower me quickly, Mr Starbuck! Lower three boats, and lower mine too, Mr Starbuck!"

I stared at the sea and couldn't believe what was happening. As the whale rose we could all see every wrinkle on his huge,

white forehead, his crooked jaw, his mouth, and every twisted harpoon on his milk-white back.

“Ishmael,” called Starbuck, “help us lower the boats.”

We lowered the boats and we were in the water for the biggest hunt of our lives. Ahab was in his boat with his personal harpooner Fedallah and his crew of Filipinos.

A flock of sea gulls flew over the white giant as he swam joyfully in the green-blue sea. Was this gentle giant the killer of so many men? Perhaps he sensed the approaching danger because he suddenly disappeared deep into the sea.

“He’s sounded!”¹ I shouted Ahab excitedly. “But he’ll come back and when he does, I’ll be ready for him!”

We all waited. The sea looked like glass and nothing moved. An hour passed and there was still no sign of the white whale. We continued waiting but nothing happened. Ahab leaned over his boat and stared into the depths of the sea, and I did the same. I was sure we had lost the white giant because I could see nothing but blackness.

But Ahab saw something — a small white spot deep in the water. He continued staring at it and the white spot grew bigger — a huge, frightening shape was coming up from the depth of the ocean. It rose directly under Ahab’s boat. We saw the huge mouth coming out of the sea like an open tomb! Moby Dick suddenly broke the surface of the water and Ahab’s boat was thrown into the air.

Ahab lost his harpoon and he and his men were thrown from the boat. Moby Dick began swimming around the broken boat, as if he were playing an evil game. Ahab was cursing his enemy with

END

1. **He’s sounded** : (word used by whalers) The whale has gone under the water.



the worst possible language, as his peg leg pulled him down under water.

Stubb's boat reached Ahab in time and he jumped in and rescued Ahab. He pulled his exhausted captain on board his boat. Our boat took on some of the other crew members, while the others swam back to the ship.

On the second day we continued hunting Moby Dick, day and night — never stopping.

"There she blows!" was Ahab's cry from the masthead. It was the white whale.

The boats were lowered and, when the men were close to the white giant, they threw their harpoons into him with all their strength and anger. Moby Dick fought fiercely, moving about violently in the water and making the harpoon ropes cross. Before the ropes could be cut free, he attacked the boats of Stubb and Flask, which crashed together violently. The crews were thrown into the sea. Ahab's boat tried to rescue the men but Moby Dick smashed his white head against the bottom of Ahab's boat. The boat turned over and Ahab and his men struggled out from under it. The great white whale seemed satisfied with the destruction he had caused and swam off.

The *Pequod* sent a boat to rescue the crew and pick up the bent harpoons and broken oars. Fedallah had disappeared and many men were hurt. Ahab's peg leg was broken and only one sharp piece was left.

"No bones broken, I hope, sir?" said Stubb, worried.

"Even with broken bones, old Ahab is ready to fight the whale!" the captain cried. "No white whale, no man, no devil can

touch old Ahab. Get the other boats ready, Mr Starbuck. I'll circle the world ten times, yes, and in the end I'll kill him!"

The sun set and through the long hours of the night everyone was working on the new boats and the new harpoons, while the ship's carpenter was making Ahab a new leg.

The morning of the third day was beautiful and calm. Ahab was up in the masthead again, but there was no sign of Moby Dick.

Suddenly we heard Ahab's voice, "There she blows!" On the horizon a white iceberg rose out of the sea — it was Moby Dick.

My legs felt weak with fear, but the rest of me was alive with excitement. On Starbuck's face there was nothing but fear of what would happen. I could see the whale moving about violently in the water. He seemed to be warning us to stay away, but we did not stay away. Ahab was ready to hunt the white whale.

"Oh, Captain," cried Starbuck, "it's not too late to go back, even now on the third day. Moby Dick doesn't want you. You want *him!*"

"Lower the boat!" was Ahab's command. When his boat got close to the white whale, we saw a terrible sight: Fedallah's dead body tied to Moby Dick's side with the ropes of his own harpoon! When Ahab saw him, the harpoon dropped from his hand.

"Fedallah!" he cried. "I can see you again and you have gone before me. Where's the whale? Has he gone down again?"

Moby Dick moved forward with all his strength.

"I will turn my body from the sun," Ahab shouted. "I will give myself to you. You may destroy everything, but you will not conquer me. I will kill you with my hate."

Ahab grabbed his harpoon and threw it into Moby Dick's white flesh with all his anger. But the rope that held the harpoon

to the boat caught Ahab's neck. And as Moby Dick swam forward at great speed, the rope pulled Ahab out of the boat in an instant. Ahab was gone.

Suddenly I cried out in panic. Moby Dick was swimming towards the *Pequod*! He wanted to destroy it with all his blind anger, and he did. He smashed into the ship's side and the crew were sent to their deaths. Within seconds the *Pequod* began to sink. But the white whale had not finished his work of destruction. The whale attacked the sinking ship again.

Ahab and the *Pequod* went down to the great depths of the sea together. The waves rolled by¹ as they had always done.

Epilogue

The drama's done. I, Ishmael, was the only person who survived the last voyage of the *Pequod*. After the ship had sunk Queequeg's coffin came to the surface, and it floated. I swam to the coffin and held on to it for a day and a night. It saved my life.

The sharks and the sea birds did not bother me. On the second day I saw a ship sailing towards me. It was the *Rachel*, whose captain was looking for his lost son and found me instead.

1. **rolled by** : moved along rhythmically.



The text and **beyond**

1 Comprehension check

Say whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), and then correct the false ones.

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 When he first saw him, Ishmael did not think that <i>Moby Dick</i> looked dangerous. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 <i>Moby Dick</i> 's first attack came from below. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 On the second day, the harpooners did not hit <i>Moby Dick</i> . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 After falling into the water twice, Ahab was finally frightened of the white whale. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 By the third day, Starbuck was terrified of the whale. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Starbuck thought that <i>Moby Dick</i> wanted to kill Ahab. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Fedallah was attached to the white whale's body. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 <i>Moby Dick</i> killed Ahab with his tail. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 Ishmael and Queequeg were the only two who survived <i>Moby Dick</i> 's final attack. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2 Summary

Fill in the gaps with a word or a short phrase to make a summary of chapters 7-10. There are two examples at the beginning (0) and (00).

Stubb killed the first whale but Ahab (0) *did not care*..... : he was only interested in *Moby Dick*. The crew tied the dead body to the ship and the next day they began peeling (00) *the blubber*..... off the whale. Then (1) to make oil.

The *Pequod* continued its voyage and months passed. One evening Starbuck told Ahab that some of the barrels (2) The crew had to pull all of the barrels out of the hold. The work was very hard and Queequeg became ill. He told the carpenter to make him a (3) But suddenly Queequeg got better. He couldn't die, he said, because (4)

The *Pequod* continued its voyage and Ahab continued his search for

Moby Dick. When they were in the middle of the Japanese sea, they were hit by a (5) The masts glowed with the light of a strange fire. Starbuck saw this as a bad omen that meant that God (6)

Days after this, the *Pequod* encountered the *Rachel*. Its captain was desperately searching for (7) who was lost at sea in a whale boat. He begged Ahab to help him but Ahab refused: he only had time for hunting *Moby Dick*. Ahab had lost all (8)

Some days later Ahab knew that there was a whale near because he could (9) The crew pulled him up to the masthead. Then Ahab saw *Moby Dick*! The boats were lowered. On this first day, the white whale destroyed Ahab's boat. The next day, the battle continued and again *Moby Dick* destroyed Ahab's boat and also his (10)

On the third and last day of the battle, Ahab finally threw a harpoon and hit *Moby Dick*. But the rope got caught around his (11), and the whale pulled Ahab out of the boat in an instant. Then the whale turned and attacked the *Pequod*. He smashed against it twice. The ship sank and Ishmael was the only one to survive. He held onto Queequeg's (12) for two days until the *Rachel* picked him up.

3 Discussion

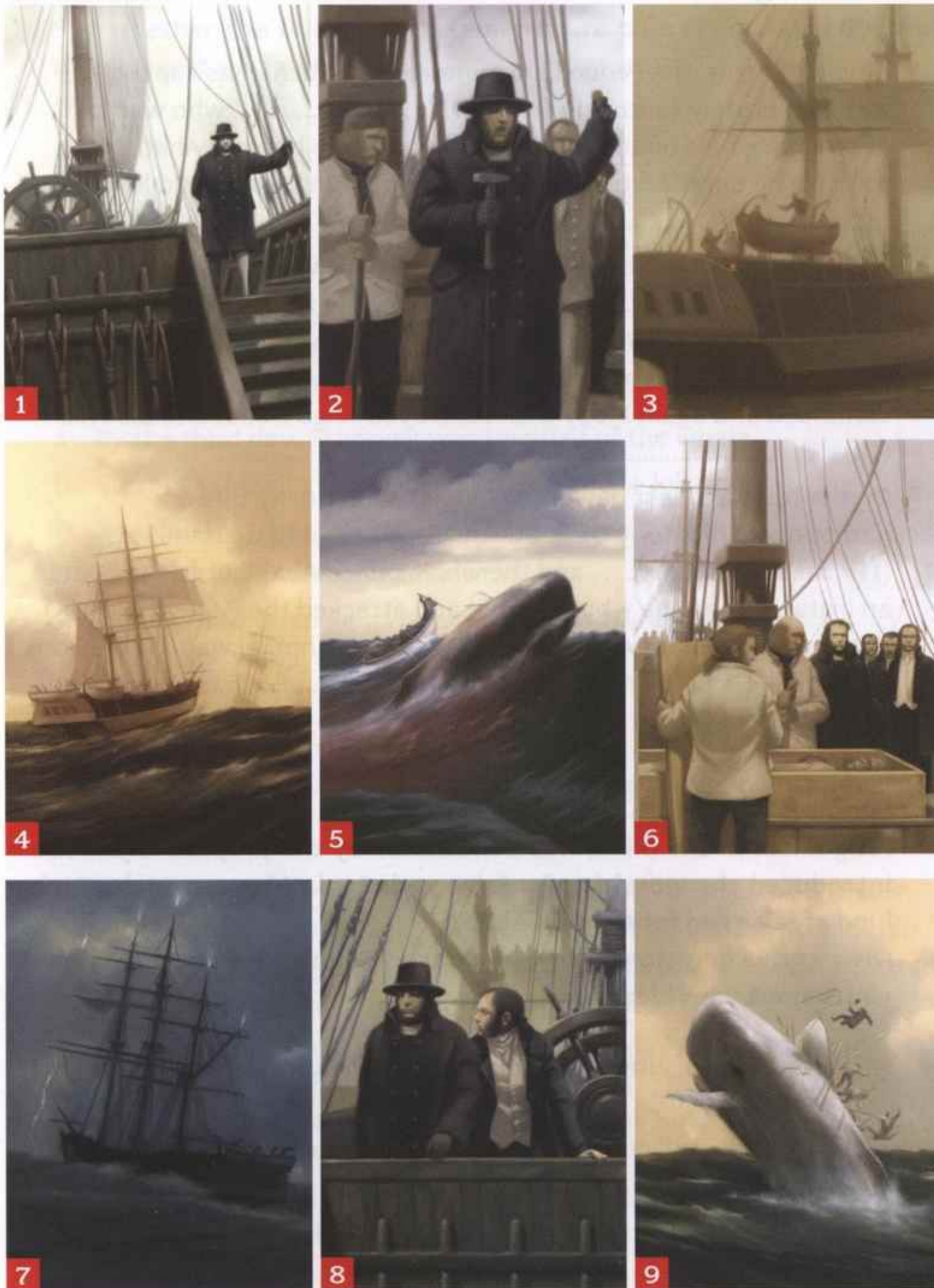
King Ahab, in the Bible, was condemned by the prophet Elijah: Ahab introduced the worship of a false god, Baal. Why was *Moby Dick* a kind of false god for Captain Ahab?

Discuss this question with your partner. Below are some ideas to help you. Report your ideas to the class.

- Moby Dick* became more important than human feelings such as love for family.
- Moby Dick* replaced any interest in the general community.
- Moby Dick*, an animal, was seen as evil.
- Killing *Moby Dick* was more important than the lives of his men.

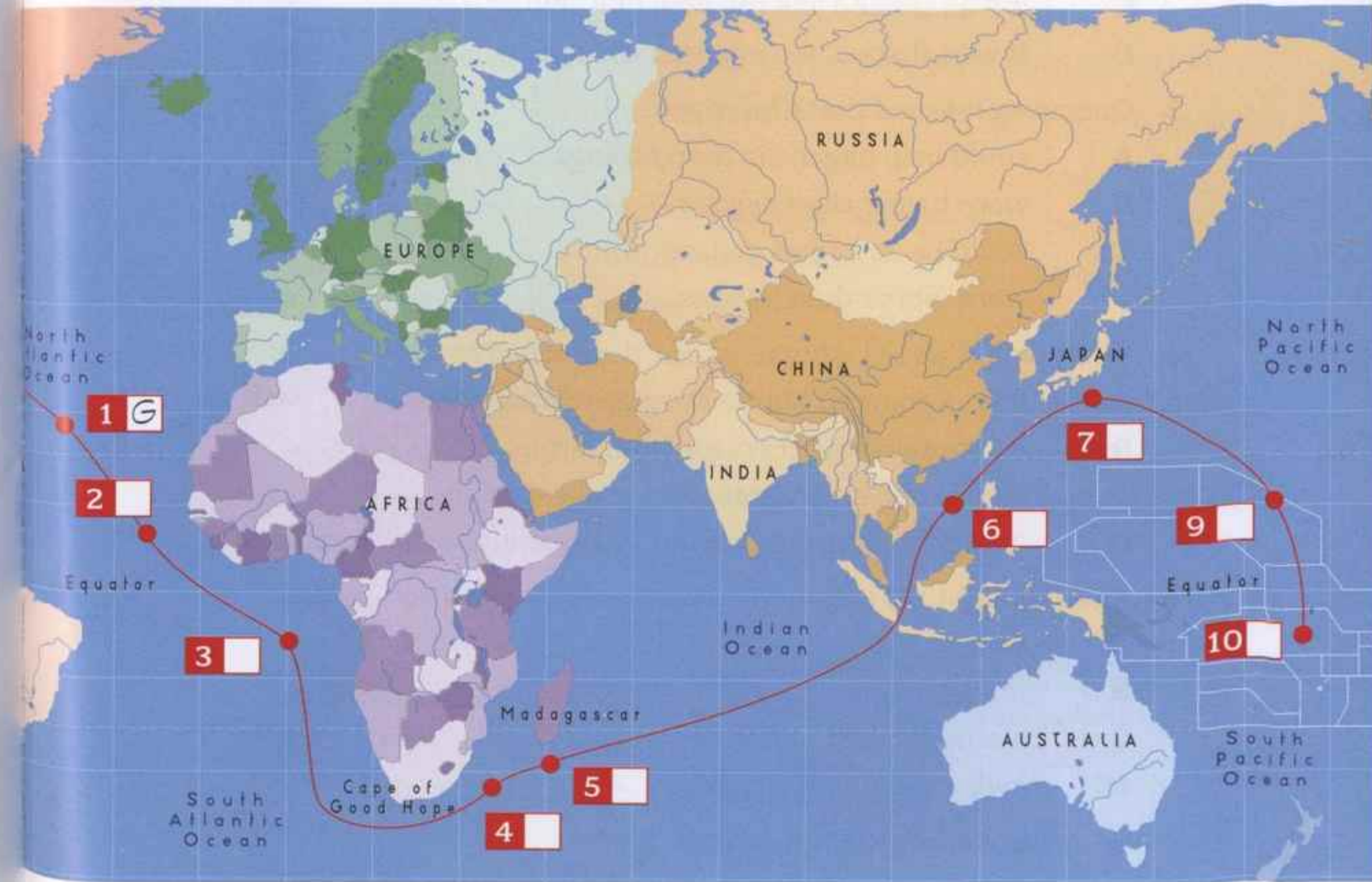
4 The voyage of the *Pequod*: a worldwide adventure

A Tell your partner what is happening in each picture.



B Match each point on the map with the geographical indications below.

- A Southeast of Japan
- B In the Pacific Ocean, just south of the equator
- C In the Pacific Ocean, north of the equator
- D Off the coast of China
- E To the south of Madagascar
- F Just east of the Cape of Good Hope
- G In the Atlantic Ocean
- H Off the west coast of Africa, south of the equator
- I Off the west coast of Africa, north of the equator



5 Speaking

Can you think of another setting in time and place for the story of *Moby Dick*? You can change the whale to another animal, and make other changes, but keep the themes the same.

FCE 1 Comprehension check

Choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

- 1 Ishmael sees the sea as a place of
 A mystery and life.
 B trouble and fear.
 C business.
 D revenge.
- 2 What was unusual about Father Mapple's pulpit?
 A It was decorated with whale's teeth and bones.
 B It was on a ship.
 C It was shaped like the bow of a ship.
 D It was shaped like a sperm whale.
- 3 Queequeg learned that Christians
 A could help pagans in many things.
 B were better than pagans.
 C could be as bad as pagans.
 D were worse than pagans.
- 4 What did Elijah tell Ishmael about the *Pequod*?
 A It was going to hunt a strange white whale.
 B Its captain was crazy and dangerous.
 C Its captain and mates were really demons.
 D It had demons aboard and it was going to be destroyed.
- 5 Ahab thought that Moby Dick was
 A God.
 B mad.
 C a stupid beast.
 D evil.
- 6 Who was Fedallah?
 A Ahab's harpooner
 B Starbuck's harpooner
 C Flask's harpooner
 D Stubb's harpooner

- 7 What is a "gam"?
 A A whale hunt that does not end successfully.
 B When you make whale blubber.
 C When you see another whaling ship.
 D When the crews of two whaling ships meet.
- 8 The whale oil comes from
 A the inside of the whale's head.
 B the inside of the whale's stomach.
 C the blubber on the outside of a whale's body.
 D the muscles under the whale's hump.
- 9 Starbuck didn't kill Ahab because
 A he didn't have a gun.
 B he was afraid of the other mates who were devoted to him.
 C he was afraid of going to prison.
 D he thought it was wrong.
- 10 Ahab's refusal to help Captain Gardiner showed that
 A he was obsessed with Moby Dick.
 B he had lost his humanity.
 C he was evil.
 D he had lost his sense of reality.
- 11 How did Ahab first know that Moby Dick was near?
 A He smelled him.
 B He heard the sound of him spouting.
 C He saw him from the masthead.
 D He saw him from the deck.
- 12 How did Ishmael survive after the *Pequod* sank?
 A He swam to land.
 B He held onto Yojo, Queequeg's wooden idol.
 C He held onto Queequeg's coffin/sea chest.
 D He swam to the *Rachel*.

1 A; 2 C; 3 C; 4 D; 5 D; 6 A; 7 D; 8 C; 9 D; 10 B; 11 A; 12 C.

Key to Exit Test

This reader uses the **EXPANSIVE READING** approach, where the text becomes a springboard to improve language skills and to explore historical background, cultural connections and other topics suggested by the text.

The new structures introduced in this step of our **READING & TRAINING** series are listed below. Naturally, structures from lower steps are included too. For a complete list of structures used over all the six steps, see *The Black Cat Guide to Graded Readers*, which is also downloadable at no cost from our website, www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it.

The vocabulary used at each step is carefully checked against vocabulary lists used for internationally recognised examinations.

Step Four B2.1

All the structures used in the previous levels, plus the following:

Verb tenses

Present Perfect Simple: *the first / second etc. time that ...*

Present Perfect Continuous: unfinished past with *for* or *since* (duration form)

Verb forms and patterns

Passive forms: Present Perfect Simple
Reported speech introduced by precise reporting verbs (e.g. *suggest, promise, apologise*)

Modal verbs

Be / get used to + -ing: habit formation
Had better: duty and warning

Types of clause

3rd Conditional: *if + Past Perfect, would(n't) have*

Conditionals with *may / might*

Non-defining relative clauses with: *which, whose*

Clauses of concession: *even though; in spite of, despite*

Available at Step Four:

- **American Horror** Edgar Allan Poe
- **Beowulf**
- **The Big Mistake and Other Stories** Nella Burnett-Stuart and Bruna Deriu
- **The Canterbury Tales** Geoffrey Chaucer
- **A Christmas Carol** Charles Dickens
- **Daisy Miller** Henry James
- **Dracula** Bram Stoker
- **Famous British Criminals from The Newgate Calendar**
- **Jack the Ripper** Peter Foreman
- **The Last of the Mohicans** James Fenimore Cooper
- **Macbeth** William Shakespeare
- **The Merchant of Venice** William Shakespeare
- **A Midsummer Night's Dream** William Shakespeare
- **Moby Dick** Herman Melville
- **The Moonstone** Wilkie Collins
- **Le Morte d'Arthur** Sir Thomas Malory
- **Much Ado About Nothing** William Shakespeare
- **Othello** William Shakespeare
- **The Secret Agent** Joseph Conrad
- **The Sign of Four** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **A Study in Scarlet** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Tom Jones** Henry Fielding
- **The Tragedy of Dr Faustus** Christopher Marlowe
- **The Turn of the Screw** Henry James
- **The Valley of Fear** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Washington Square** Henry James
- **Wicked and Humorous Tales** Saki
- **The Woman in White** Wilkie Collins