

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Analyze Multiple Accounts

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Titanic: Two Accounts of a Tragedy

A Passenger's Memory - Eva Hart

As told many years later by a survivor of the Titanic

I was just seven years old when the Titanic sank. At first, the voyage felt magical. Everything was elegant—the music, the staircase, the enormous ship. But my mother never liked it. She said, "Even God can't sink this ship," and that frightened her.

On the night of April 14th, the ship hit an iceberg. I remember the jolt and the loud noises. My father put my mother and me in a lifeboat. He stayed behind. We never saw him again. The stars were bright as we floated in the dark, cold sea. I was so young, but I'll never forget it.

From the History Book - *Disasters at Sea*

On April 15, 1912, the RMS Titanic sank in the North Atlantic Ocean after striking an iceberg. Over 1,500 people lost their lives. The ship was considered "unsinkable" because of its advanced design, but it did not carry enough lifeboats for everyone onboard.

The Titanic was on its first voyage from England to New York. When the ship hit the iceberg, the lower decks began to flood quickly. Some passengers and crew were able to escape in lifeboats, but many could not. The disaster led to major changes in safety laws, including requiring enough lifeboats for all passengers.



Name: _____

The Titanic: Two Accounts of a Tragedy

1. How do the points of view in the two texts differ?

- A. Text 1 is a personal account of surviving the disaster, while Text 2 is a factual summary of the event.
- B. Text 1 is a newspaper article, and Text 2 is a poem.
- C. Both texts describe the same exact feelings about the voyage.
- D. Text 2 is a made-up story, while Text 1 is a report.

2. What is one detail that appears only in the personal account?

- A. The memory of seeing the stars from a lifeboat.
- B. The number of safety laws changed after the sinking.
- C. The total number of passengers who died.
- D. The fact that the ship was going to New York.

3. Fill in the blank:

The history text focuses on facts and outcomes, while the survivor's story shares personal _____ and memories.

4. Why is it helpful to read both a personal account and a historical summary of the Titanic?

5. What emotions are shared in the first text that are not included in the second?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: U

Lexile Level: 925L-1075L

Grade Level: 5th Grade, Middle of the Year

Genre: Informational – Historical Event / Memoir

Introducing the Text

“These two short texts give different views of the same historical event—the sinking of the Titanic. One text is a personal reflection from a survivor, while the other is a factual report. Students will explore how each point of view adds something different to their understanding of the event.”

Vocabulary: iceberg, lifeboat, voyage, survivor, tragedy

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you already know about the Titanic?
 2. Why might someone’s personal memory of an event be different from a history book account?
 3. What can we learn from hearing both emotional and factual perspectives?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What specific details from the personal account stand out to you?
 2. What new facts does the history text share?
 3. How does the tone of each text feel different?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How do the two texts work together to give you a fuller understanding of the Titanic disaster?
 2. Which type of text helped you connect to the story more—and why?
 3. What would you include if you were writing your own version of this event?
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Activity Idea

Ask students to create a two-column chart titled *Personal vs. Informational*. List unique details found in each type of text. Then, write a paragraph explaining how both types of writing help readers understand history in different ways.

