

## ***"The Voyage" by Bhupen Hazarika***

### **TEXTUAL QUESTION ANSWERS**

#### **A. Choose the correct option:**

1. **The narrator was going to –**  
→ (b) the United States of America
  2. **The narrator was a –**  
→ (a) student
  3. **The narrator's wife had to wait –**  
→ (c) for a few days before she could join him
  4. **The narrator missed his –**  
→ (b) wife and child
  5. **The ship's journey had to be made –**  
→ (a) without stopping anywhere
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#### **B. Answer the following questions briefly:**

1. **Where was the narrator going?**  
→ The narrator was going to the United States of America to pursue higher studies in mass communication and cinema.
2. **What was the narrator's profession?**  
→ The narrator was a student and later became a filmmaker, lyricist, singer, and writer.
3. **Why was the narrator's wife not with him on the voyage?**  
→ She had to wait in India for a few more days due to some pending matters and could not accompany him immediately.

**4. How did the narrator feel during the voyage?**

→ The narrator felt extremely lonely, isolated, and emotionally distressed as he missed his wife and child dearly.

**5. What was the narrator's experience of the storm during the voyage?**

→ He experienced a terrifying and dangerous storm mid-voyage, which made him reflect on life, death, and his emotional attachment to his family.

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**C. Answer the following questions in about 40–50 words:**

**1. What happened during the narrator's voyage that made it unforgettable?**

→ During the voyage, the ship was caught in a violent storm. The fear of death, coupled with his longing for his wife and child, made the experience unforgettable. The emotional turmoil he faced brought him closer to understanding the value of human relationships.

**2. Why did the narrator describe the voyage as a journey of emotional turbulence?**

→ Apart from the physical storm, the narrator underwent deep emotional stress. He missed his family, felt isolated, and feared he might die without seeing them again. This inner struggle made it an emotionally turbulent journey.

**3. What role does nature play in the narrative?**

→ Nature, especially the sea, plays a central role in intensifying the narrator's emotions. The stormy sea symbolizes his inner emotional storm, while the vast ocean reflects the loneliness and unpredictability of life.

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**D. Answer the following questions in about 80–100 words:**

**1. What do you understand about the narrator's personality from the story?**

→ The narrator, Bhupen Hazarika, comes across as an emotional and sensitive individual. His deep love for his family is evident in the way he constantly thinks about his wife and child. He is also introspective, using the solitary voyage as a time for self-reflection. His fear of death during the storm and his yearning for life highlight his human vulnerability and emotional depth. His artistic nature is subtly reflected in his way of expression and in the symbolic description of the sea and storm.

**2. How does the story highlight the theme of separation and longing?**

→ "The Voyage" explores the deep emotional pain caused by separation. The narrator, far away from his family, feels a strong sense of longing, which is amplified by the storm and the silence of the vast sea. His heart aches for his loved ones, and he constantly wonders if he will survive to meet them again. The story powerfully portrays how physical distance can lead to emotional suffering, and how memories of loved ones become a lifeline in moments of fear and uncertainty.



**ADDITIONAL SHORT & LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS**

**◆ Short Answer Questions (30–50 words)**

**1. What was the purpose of the narrator's voyage?**

→ The narrator was travelling to the United States to pursue higher studies in mass communication and cinema.

**2. Why was the voyage a lonely one for the narrator?**

→ The narrator's wife and child were not with him. He felt

isolated and emotionally vulnerable, surrounded by unfamiliar people and environments.

**3. How did the narrator describe the storm?**

→ The storm was violent and terrifying. The ship tossed dangerously, and the narrator feared for his life. The experience deeply shook him.

**4. What feelings did the narrator experience during the storm?**

→ He felt fear, loneliness, regret, and a strong desire to be with his family. He thought he might die without seeing them again.

**5. Why couldn't the narrator sleep during the stormy night?**

→ The rocking ship, howling wind, and the fear of sinking kept the narrator awake. His mind was filled with thoughts of his wife and child.

**6. How does the narrator contrast physical and emotional journeys?**

→ While the physical voyage was about travelling across the ocean, the emotional journey was about dealing with loneliness, fear, and longing for family.

**7. What role does memory play in the story?**

→ Memory acts as a source of comfort. The narrator constantly recalls his wife and child, which strengthens his emotional bond with them.

**8. How is the sea described in the story?**

→ The sea is vast, mysterious, and powerful. It is both beautiful and terrifying, symbolizing the narrator's emotional depth and isolation.

**9. What thought haunted the narrator during the voyage?**

→ The fear that he might never see his wife and child again haunted him during the stormy voyage.

10. **How does the story end?**

→ The storm subsides, and the narrator survives the ordeal. However, the emotional journey leaves a lasting impression on him, making the voyage unforgettable.

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◆ **Long Answer Questions (100–150 words)**

11. **Describe the narrator's emotional state during the voyage.**

→ The narrator undergoes a deep emotional transformation during the voyage. Initially, he is simply lonely and misses his family. But as the storm hits, his emotions intensify into fear, regret, and vulnerability. He feels helpless amidst the forces of nature and worries about the possibility of dying before reuniting with his loved ones. These emotions reveal his sensitivity and the importance he places on relationships. The fear of loss and longing for home dominate his thoughts, making the voyage not just a physical journey but an emotional trial.

12. **Discuss the symbolic significance of the sea in the story.**

→ The sea is a powerful symbol in "The Voyage." It represents vastness, unpredictability, and the unknown. Just like life, the sea can be calm one moment and violent the next. It mirrors the narrator's inner turmoil, showing how external situations often reflect our emotions. The sea's stormy nature symbolizes the narrator's fear and emotional storm, while its calmness later reflects peace and survival.

13. **How does the storm act as a turning point in the story?**

→ The storm marks a shift from passive loneliness to intense emotional reckoning. Before the storm, the narrator is quietly sad and misses his family. But during the storm, he is forced to confront the reality of death and the fragility of life. This

confrontation deepens his emotional connection with his family and brings clarity about what truly matters to him. The storm becomes a metaphor for the struggles one must endure to appreciate the value of life and love.

14. **Explain how Bhupen Hazarika blends the personal with the universal in 'The Voyage'.**

→ Hazarika's narrative is personal—about his own journey to America—but the emotions he explores are universal: separation, fear, loneliness, and love. Readers can relate to the emotional vulnerability and longing he expresses. By sharing his personal experiences, Hazarika touches upon feelings everyone faces at some point, making the story both intimate and broadly resonant.

15. **In what way is 'The Voyage' a reflective piece?**

→ The story is reflective as it captures the narrator's introspection during a challenging time. His thoughts are not limited to the physical journey but extend into emotional and philosophical territories. He reflects on life, death, relationships, and the value of family. The voyage becomes a time of deep self-examination.