

A three-masted sailing ship is depicted on a dark, choppy sea at night. The ship's sails are partially illuminated by a light source, creating a stark contrast with the dark background. The ship is angled towards the right, with its bow in the foreground. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and eerie, fitting the theme of a ghost ship.

The Last Voyage of the ghost ship

9. The Last Voyage of the Ghost Ship (A Story)

- G. Garcia Marquez

Summary and Central Idea

The Last Voyage of the Ghost Ship is an interesting story written by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. In the story, the writer describes the growth of an ordinary boy (the narrator) to an assertive man. The writer here wants to prove that one cannot be great in life without courage and determination. According to the story, a small boy saw a ghost ship in the sea at night in the month of March. The ship was quite big and wonderful. It had no sound and light. It was moving without any control. The surprising thing was that it would disappear when there was light and would appear when there was no light. The boy was surprised with the ship but he thought he might have seen it in the dream. The boy saw the same ship the next March and told his mother about it. She did not believe him. She said that his mind was rotting. However, she had to send a boatman to confirm whether it was ship or not. The boatman saw nothing except some fish playing in the water. She became sad and worried about her son. One day, she bought a chair and began to see the sea sitting on it. She remembered her dead husband. She became excited and died. Other four women also died so it was a cursed chair. Finally, the chair was thrown into the sea. The boy became an orphan and he did not want anyone's mercy. As an orphan, he lived on stealing fish. He was all alone. Villagers did not help him. In the next March, again he saw the same ship talked to the villagers about it. The villagers thought him to be a mad and he was severely beaten, he decided not to talk anyone about it but he tried to show who he was. In the next year, he saw the same ship and followed it rowing a boat. When the light of the lighthouse fell upon it, it disappeared and the boy fell in trouble. He lit a lantern and saw the ship again. He rowed his boat near to the ship and brought it under control. He found nobody in the ship and brought it at the harbour near his village. He called the villagers and the villagers were surprised at seeing the ship larger than the village. Thus, the boy proved himself an assertive Young man. He showed the villagers who he was. It means that if a person works hard to develop his career without losing patience, he can certainly get success in his life. The story describes the growth of an ordinary boy to an assertive young man. It presents the boy's inner journey from the innocence to experience and how he gains manhood. The ships stand for the child's imagination and his encounter with the ship many times indicates his growing vision, which finally makes him a strong man with a strong voice and confidence. In fact, this story brings out the child's inner consciousness. The whole story is a psychological study, which describes the boy's attainment of maturity. Thus, the story deals with the mental growth of the child in proportion with physical growth. Both the growth combined makes him confident about what he says and does.

Important Questions

1. How does the boy change himself into an assertive young man?
2. What is the meaning of the refrain "I'm going to show who I am."
3. How is controlling of the ship related with boy's newly discovered identity?

Short Answer Questions

1. 2076 PARTIAL E Q. NO. 2E

Why does the boy have to prove who he was?) (3)

- The boy, the narrator of the story, "The Last Voyage of the Ghost Ship", had to prove who actually he was. He was not a common man. The boy had strong determination and courage. He was the visionary artist waiting for his talents to expose. He started his mental journey as an ordinary boy and wanted to end it by being an assertive young new man. The boy when talked about the type of the ship he saw to his mother, she called him mad. Neither did the villagers believe him. He was instead, insulted and beaten by them. They blamed him for every disaster that happened in the village. This made him strong. He thought of proving himself among the disbelievers by justifying the type of the ship he described really existed. He struggled for it and finally proved that he was not an ordinary boy but a man of vision and extraordinary talents.

2. 2075 GIE Q. NO. 2B

Why do the villagers beat the boy?

- In this the story, 'The Last Voyage of the Ghost Ship', the villagers beat the narrator, the boy. Gabriel Garcia Marquez, presents a revolutionary boy who is insulted by the villagers. There is a reason why the villagers beat him. The narrator's mother brings a comfortable chair from the town and sits on it. She thinks about her dead husband sitting on the chair and imagines that he would feel better to sit in such a comfortable chair. Her heart pounds faster and blood grows cold in her heart. She falls out of the chair and dies. Other four women come and sit on the chair. They also die. The villagers then start blaming the boy. They recognize him as a son of the lady who brought evil in the village. Similarly, when the boy sees the huge ship on the third March, he tells about it to the villagers. They go to see if the ship is there. They didn't see the ship, rather the fish and other materials. They, then, started beating the boy. But, the boy didn't give up. He turned rather bold and confident to prove who he was. He called them disbelievers.

3. 2075 SET C Q. NO. 2C

Why doesn't the mother show her good interest to her son's story?

- Gabriel Garcia Marquez's story, 'The Last Voyage of the Ghost Ship' presents a boy who narrates the story of recurring ship. When the boy sees the huge ocean liner, lightless and sounds less, he goes to tell about it to his mother. Being a bit confident about the existence of the ship, he tells that he has seen an intermittent ship moving towards the village. He also says that the ship is without pilot and crew and it is larger than the village. The ship shines when there is no light and it disappears when it has the light of the moon. The mother doesn't show interest in it rather blames him. She says that his wits are rotten by spending whole night at the sea and sleeping whole afternoon at home. She thinks that the type of the ship described by the boy is not possible. Thus, she doesn't show interest in her son's story. On the other hand she has been preoccupied with the idea of going to the town to bring a comfortable chair. She wants to sit in a comfortable chair to think about her dead husband. Hence, the mother doesn't show an interest in her son's story.

4. 2075 PARTIAL E Q. NO. 12C

What does the refrain of the boy "Now they're going to see who I'm mean? [3]

- The refrain, "Now they're going to see who I am" suggests boy's strong determination. He discovers a new ability in him which enables him to control the ship's movement. The boy goes on becoming stronger and stronger. The ordinary boy in the beginning can't share the vision of his ghost ship with any one. Later on, when he grows a bit matured, he shares it with the mother and the villagers. None of them believes on him. This gives him a new man's voice and new spirit. Thus, changed with his determinations and thoughts, he continues to work with his promise, "Now they're going to see who I am". He doesn't express it but feels. It gives him a new spirit and enthusiasm. Thus, with this spirit, he hires the boat and moves towards the bay. He enables to correct the course of the ship and eventually directs the ship towards the village. The boy discovers in him a new ability and force. This refrain reinforces him to the action. Consequently, he discovers himself as a new assertive young man who has succeeded to justify his vision.

5. 2073 SET D Q. NO. 2E

What is the significance of the repetition of words "Now they are going to see who I am...? . [3]

- Please refer to **2075 PARTIAL E Q. NO. 12C**

6. 2073 PARTIAL A Q. NO. 2D

How does the boy prove his maturity at the end of the story? [3]

- The boy, the narrator of the story, "The Last Voyage of the Ghost Ship" proves his maturity at the end of the story. He has to repeatedly see the ship of his imagination to prove that he has been right. Many times he has been ignored by his own mother and the villagers. The villagers even kick him and curse him for his mother. He doesn't surrender, however. He decides to show them who he is. So in one night of March, the boy steals a boat and keeps waiting for the ship where he had seen last year. When the ship arrives, he lights a lamp on his boat, the ship follows the light and the boy leads the ship towards his village. When the ship is brought near the village, he blows large whistle. All the villagers wake up because of the sound and start coming out of their houses. The ship comes onto the ground by the village and stops moving in front of the church, then all the villagers see the ship and believe the boy. Symbolically, this is his stage of maturity. An ordinary boy who had not even believe in himself in the beginning changes matured fighting against insults and difficulties.

7. 2070 SUPP SET A Q. NO. 12 D.

"The story 'The Last Voyage of the Ghost Ship' is about the maturity, consciousness of the boy rather than the appearance and disappearance of the ship". - Explain. [3]

- The Story, "The Last Voyage of the Ghost Ship" written by Gabriel Garcia Marquez is about the maturity and consciousness of an ordinary boy who changes significantly in the course of time rather than the appearance and disappearance of the ship. The ship so far described in the story is boy's vision. The boy enables to control the visionary ship at the end. Though confused in the beginning of his talents and visions, he grows in the passage of time and makes the disbelievers believe. He is an artist who involves in the artistic process. The control of the ship so far mentioned indicates that the boy has turned matured and conscious. The boy saw a ghost ship in the sea at night in the month of March. The ship was quite big and wonderful. It had no sound and light. It was moving without any

control. The surprising thing was that it would disappear when there was light and would appear when there was no light. It moved to the sand bank, ran on the ground, broke up and sank without sound. The boy was surprised with the ship but he thought he might have seen it in the dream. This appeared in every March and disappeared. But the story is not about this dramatic movement of the ship. This is about the boy who sees this ship. As a small boy, he couldn't recognize and know the real existence of the ship but at last he made a strong decision and plan to meet the ship anyhow and expose him really who he was. He got success with his consciousness and maturity. The success and maturity developed in the course of time. He could solve the mystery with his courage and consciousness which is the result of his maturity. No one else knows the existence of the ship because it was the boy's imagination. When he saw the great whale he shouted as if the miraculous ship appeared there but it was not reality. Thus, the story is not about ship's appearance and disappearance but about the boy's maturity, transformation and conscience and consciousness.

8. 2066 (PARTIAL) Q. NO. 12 E

What is the strangest thing about the ghost ship? [3]

- The strangest thing about the ship is that it is a ghost ship. The ghost ship is the product of the boy's fancy and the fancy has to be strange. This imagined ghost ship is strange without any sound. It is huge without lights. It is ship but looks like an inhabited place. The ship is longer than the whole village and taller than the steeple of the Church which sailed in the darkness across the bay. The strangest is the thing that the ship glared at the time when there was not the light of the lighthouse but didn't glare when the light of the lighthouse appeared. It is intermittent ship sailing along appearing and disappearing towards the mouth of the bay. This illusionary ship looks as if it has lost direction. The ship doesn't have pilot and crews. It moves with an enormous speed. The strongest thing about the ship is that it is 20 times taller than the steeple of the Church and 97 times longer than the village and when it cracked by the bay, it shattered with the sound produced by ninety thousand and hundred champagne bottles breaking at a time. strange thing about the ship is that it appears the month of March

9. 2064 Q.N. 12B

Why did the boy have to prove who he was? [3]

- Please refer to **2076 PARTIAL E Q. NO. 2E**

10. 2061 Q. NO. 10B

What does the refrain of the boy "Now they're to see who I mean"?

- Please refer to **2075 PARTIAL E Q. NO. 12C**

Long Answer Questions

11. 2071 PARTIAL SET A Q. NO. 13 A

How does the nature of the boy change in the span of time from the first time he saw the ship to the time when he captures it?

- The nature of the boy changes in the span of time from the first time he saw the ship to the time when he captures it. In course of time, the boy, who is the narrator in the story, develops and discovers a new ability by controlling the movements of his visionary ship in him. In the beginning, the boy was weak who couldn't even share his visionary ship with his own mother. He was not even sure himself. But the protagonist grows from time of weakness as a boy without a man's voice to a time in which his strength and power are asserted in his strong new man's voice. "The last Voyage of the Ghost Ship" is a story growth of an ordinary boy to an assertive young man. His encounter with the ghost ship has certain linkage to his maturity. An ordinary boy saw a ghost ship the sea at night in the month of March which was quit big without sound and light. It was moving with great speed without any control. The ship would disappear when there was light and would appear when there was no light. The boy was surprised with the ship but he thought he might have seen it in the dream se he was still a weak man. But he continued to see the ship in other Marches. The more he saw, the stronger he appeared to be. The boy saw the same ship in the next March and told his mother about it. This was a step more toward his journey of maturity. she didn't believe him. She became sad and worried about her son. But the boy didn't fall back. Though his mother died and he became orphan, he continued to his efforts. The insults given by the villagers and his own condition made him yet strong. Growing comparatively stronger than before, he talked to the villagers about the ship in the next March. The villagers also thought him to be mad and he was severely beaten. Then, he decided not to talk to anyone about it but he tried to show who he was. In the next year, he saw the same ship and followed

it rowing a boat. When the light of lighthouse fell upon it, it disappeared and the boy fell in problem. He lit a lantern and saw the ship again. He rowed his boat near to the ship and brought it under control. He found nobody in the ship and brought it at the harbor near his village. He called the villagers and the villagers were surprised at seeing the ship larger than the village. This is how the boy changes from the first time he saw the ship to the time he captured. Whatever, we admire the strength of a visionary boy who enables to transfigure himself into an assertive man by showing the disbeliever to his ship. The boy involves the journey and achieves a grand triumph in which his private vision of the ghost ship is forced upon the attention of the disbelievers. The boy is seen changed.

12. 2057 Q. NO. 3 A

Narrate the story of a boy's growth from an ordinary boy to an assertive young man. [10]

- This story presents the growth of an ordinary boy to the assertive young man. The narrator explains how he concentrates in his vision and grows from an ordinary boy without man's voice to a strong man with a voice. When the story starts, we find the boy is already grown into assertive man, when he asserts, "Now they are going to see who I am." But narrating his past, the boy reveals that four years ago in March, he saw a huge ship, which lost its way, crushed to a rock and sank. There were no lights on the ship. Neither had it appeared in the light of the lighthouse. He could only see the ship in extreme darkness. He was himself not sure about that vision for the first time and didn't tell anybody about that. Next March, too, he saw the same ship and told his mother about it. His mother didn't believe him. She thought the boy became lunatic and lamented for three weeks. However, she assured him that she would go and look at the ship if it came again. But before the arrival of the ship, she died. The ship appeared in March again. The protagonist gathered the villagers to see the ship. They went to see if there was one. But there wasn't any ship. Consequently, they beat the boy. Afterwards, the boy act determined if the ship came next time, he would show everybody how big the ship was. As thought, the ship appeared in the fourth March too. This time the boy led the ship with a stolen lamp in a small boat. The light of the lamp helped the ship to correct its way and it followed the boy. The boy brought the ship to the village. The gigantic ship was 97 times longer than the village and 20 times taller than the church. The boy imagined that its loud siren had woken the whole village and they were looking at the ship in disbelieve. This would help him to prove who he was. In this way, the ordinary boy, who doesn't tell about the ship when sees for the first time, changes himself in to an assertive young man. The story's boy transforms himself by involving in the artistic creation. The boy's imagination becomes so sharp that he enables to translate it into reality.