

AP Lang Notes

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Moby Dick

Chapter 1

This chapter really sets the setting for who really the author is and what the book is about. Previously a schoolmaster, Ishmael (I assume that this is his story in some aspect) finds the sea as a way to calm down and escape from the stresses of daily life. Ishmael is not a captain nor a passenger, but rather a part of the sailor crew, in which he finds no shame being. Ishmael also describes how strangely attracted to water and the sea many people eventually are throughout their lives.

At the end of the chapter, Ishmael finds it “his fate” to go on a long sailing journey (alone?), describing the beauty of the great whales that he might encounter.

Even from a light skim, we can see that Ishmael (or at least the man in the supposed story) is quite religious, making allusions back to mainly Christian events, but also is in general familiar with ancient mythology. Ishmael makes mention of ancient Greece with the story Narcissus, ancient Egypt, and even the Persian empire among other things.

As a side, note Ishmael also makes mention of Patagonia and in the excerpts there does seem to some mention to some well-known landmarks from Patagonia, which leads me to believe that, given its beautiful sights and wild landscape, much of the journey will take place there. This is pretty cool because we watched an interesting documentary on Patagonia in Spanish class, so I’m hoping I’ll have a better understanding of the setting.

One major question I hope to answer along the course of reading this book is: **Why was this book chosen for AP Lang reading?** In other words, what message does Mr. Rhinehart (or whoever chose this really) want to convey to us? Sure, it could be very likely that there is no reason other than it provides a rigorous enough level of reading and analysis or simply that it is a classic reading that is common for our grade level, but I really do think there is some better reason as to why this book in particular was selected, and I hope to uncover this as the book continues on.

One interesting subsection I saw that could possibly relate to this is: “But these are all landmen; of week days pent up in lath and plaster—tied to counters, nailed to benches, clinched to desks” (Melville 14). Ishmael describes the difference between the “land-dwellers,” tied to their homes and contrasts them with the free sea-loving people like him. In a way, we could consider this an analogy to the modern day with those caught up in technology, social media, and other stressors instead of just enjoying life for it is and adventuring. Yes, this does make me sound like a boomer, but it’s a valid comparison ;)

Another good question to keep in mind is: **Why was the title “Moby Dick” chosen?** I am aware that there is a chapter called “Moby Dick,” so perhaps this will be revealed then, but it doesn’t hurt to have this in the back of our minds.

Lastly, perhaps a more standard question that one might see as a prompt: **How does the first person perspective of Moby Dick impact the reader’s experience?**

Chapter 2

Preferring the historical significance and lesser capitalist involvement of whaling there, Ishmael prepares to set out for Nantucket, but quickly realizes that he will have to wait until Monday (it is currently Saturday) to depart. Ishmael looks around for a place to spend the two nights, eliminating all of the options that were “too jolly.” After mistaking a black church for an inn, Ishmael quickly turns emo and finds a dreary inn, the Spouter-Inn, which he believes suits him well.

Near the end of the chapter, Ishmael uses a very vivid description of the harsh weather outside (alluding to the Greek northeastern wind Euroclydon) and alluding to the story of Lazarus and Dives to describe how you would die if left alone and shivering the outside weather. **Why does Ishmael decide to describe this so vividly?** Perhaps this is foreshadowing to possible man vs. nature conflict in the future.

Chapter 3

Stepping into the Spouter-Inn, Ishmael finds himself an eccentric looking place, fitted with an equally eccentric painting and landlord. When Ishmael attempts to get a room, he is told that all the rooms are filled, and that he will have to share a bed with a harpooner. While hesitant, Ishmael agrees to this and obliges for supper. While at the bar, a rowdy bunch enters, and Ishmael points out one character who will later become his ship-mate.

As the night approaches closer and closer, Ishmael begins to seriously question whether or not this supposed harpooner is an all right man to be sleeping with, and decides to try and sleep on a bench. After realizing that he will freeze if he tries, Ishmael is left with no other choice. Ishmael asks the landlord what kind of person this harpooner is (and why he isn't back at 12:00 AM), and is confused by what the landlord says. Ishmael ends up taking the bed anyways and is woken up by the harpooner, who he observes for a while. Ishmael is bewildered by his selling of human heads (O.O) and nightly ritual, and he is almost attacked, but the landlord is called, and the situation is sorted. Ishmael feels a little bad for making so many assumptions about this man, Queequeg, when he was really just another person.

Chapter 4

Ishmael wakes up to Queequeg hugging him, which reminds him of a somewhat dream from his early childhood. Ishmael then watches Queequeg get dressed, going into particularly detail of how foreign and "savage" it is to him, but forgets to say no homo.

It seems particularly apparent, due in large part due to when this was written I suppose, that there are some elements of white superiority and racism involved in describing Queequeg, portraying him as a somewhat stereotypical "savage" islander.

Chapter 5

Ishmael goes down to eat breakfast and takes a look at the crew that arrived last night. He points out how all of them are quite interestingly almost embarrassed and quiet during breakfast, despite being such powerful men at sea. Ishmael also points out how Queequeg stands out from the crowd, having brought his harpoon.

At the end of the chapter, Ishmael tells the reader that he goes out for a walk.

Chapter 6

Ishmael, on his walk presumably, describes the town of New Bedford. He points out the foreigners from all places of the world and how odd one finds them all. He points out the inexperienced young men who have come from the country to make quick money whaling. Despite all this criticism of the town's people, Ishmael does point out the true beauty of the town with the gardens, lights (aided by the whale oil), and women.

Chapter 7

Ishmael goes to the Whaleman's Chapel, describing the place, and reads the inscriptions and stories of those who have died. Ishmael is also surprised to see Queequeg in the Chapel.

Ishmael talks for quite a bit how he isn't scared of death and sees it not as some sort of evil, but a natural part of the job. Death is bliss, so people should not grieve as heavily that their loved ones are gone.

Chapter 8

Ishmael describes how Father Mapple, the once whaler chancellor of the town, arrives at the chapel. He also describes the various whaling elements of the chapel, in particular the beautiful pulpit.

Chapter 9

Father Mapple delivers a beautiful sermon and telling of the story of Jonah, illustrating how what God asks of one is truly hard and punishment is a blessing in ways.

Chapter 10

Ishmael sees Queequeg sitting alone, flipping through a book, and ponders his situation for a moment. Ishmael is fascinated how unsocial Queequeg is being so far away from home and how perhaps he is actually quite pure at heart for a cannibal. Ishmael goes over to him and helps him understand the book, leading to the two having a chat and sharing a smoke. They quickly become close friends, with Queequeg even saying that they are "bosom friends," meaning that he would die for Ishmael if need be. Queequeg gives Ishmael some money, and Ishmael (after some deliberation about what it means to worship and honor God) assists Queequeg in his ritual. The two said yes homo and went to sleep.

Chapter 11

Ishmael lies in bed with Queequeg speaking of the wonders of contrasts and human warmth. Queequeg then begins to tell stories of his homeland.

One could make the connection between Ishmael's talk of extreme opposites and contrasts of someone having to be cold to enjoy human warmth with the previous sermon on how doing what God asks of one is hard (okay the idea sounds weird when written out this way but the connection is there I just don't know how to express it well).

Chapter 12

Queequeg tells the story of his home island Kokovoko and his royal upbringing. At a young age, Queequeg had a fascination with Christianity and secretly hitched a ride, escaping his homeland, to learn more about it and experience the Western world. After realizing that Christianity was not the pure thing he once thought, Queequeg felt a bit distraught and picked up whaling. Queequeg intends to return to his island sometime in the future to be coronated, but for now desires to travel the seas and go whaling. Ishmael mentions where he is going next and the two vow to travel and whale together.

Chapter 13

Ishmael and Queequeg finally set sail together on a boat called the Moss. This chapter mainly focuses on how Queequeg and the relationship between him and Ishmael is viewed by the people. Queequeg tells a story of how he didn't know how to use a wheelbarrow to carry his stuff, but also goes on to tell a story of how a captain came to his island and unknowingly dishonored customs, highlighting that every place is unique and works differently. As they begin to sail on the Moss, one boy makes fun of Queequeg. In response, Queequeg yeets him up into the air, causing the captain to get angry. The boat then experiences turbulence, and the small boy gets swept off the boat. In absolute r/thathappened fashion, Queequeg saves the day, fixing the boat stuff and then diving into the water to retrieve the boy. Yes; everyone clapped, and the captain apologized.

Chapter 14

The ship has now reached Nantucket. Ishmael describes the oddity of its seclusiveness and the story of how the island was found by a Native American family who had their child kidnapped and murdered by an eagle. Ishmael says that those from Nantucket are all around the world and the sea is their true home.

I'm not quite sure I understand this chapter and why Ishmael has such a fixation with those from Nantucket. What is the deeper meaning behind what's being said?

Chapter 15

By recommendation of the landlord of the Spouter-Inn, Ishmael and Queequeg seek out an inn by the name of Try Pots. Ishmael is struck by the delicious food, all being chowder, but quickly realizes that there's simply too many clams and cods, such that even the milk tastes a bit fishy. Before going to sleep, the landlord insists that Queequeg cannot take his harpoons to bed.

Chapter 16

Queequeg, by suggestion of his God, Yojo, insists that Ishmael makes the decision of which ship to board to go whaling on. With some self-doubt, Ishmael goes out and chooses the Pequod. On the Pequod, Ishmael meets the principal owners: retired Captains Peleg and Bildad. They are both Quakers, but Peleg is far more carefree and loose, while Bildad is certainly more stern and strict. Peleg offers the three hundredth lay for Ishmael (the three hundredth share of the war spoils), but Bildad wants to only give him the seven hundred seventy seventh lay. Ishmael ends up signing the papers for the three hundredth lay and states that he will bring Queequeg the next day. Ishmael also inquires about the captain of the voyage, Captain Ahab, to which Peleg speaks well of him, if describing him as a bit moody due to losing a leg.

Chapter 17

Ishmael is of the opinion that Christians should not try to argue for others, pagans, to change their beliefs, as arguing and such wouldn't change anything (although Ishmael certainly made true that he feels the other beliefs are entirely false).

Queequeg is practicing Ramadan or fasting in some form where he sits on the floor in complete silence and disregard to everything around him. Ishmael, not knowing of this and only seeing harpoons in the room and the door being locked, misunderstands, causing a commotion that Queequeg might have had a stroke and trying to break into the room. When Ishmael finally does get into the room, he realizes that Queequeg is still in his fasting.

When Queequeg stops fasting the next day, Ishmael launches into a speech about how Queequeg shouldn't follow a religion that is so innately harmful to himself, but Queequeg only gives Ishmael a somewhat condescending look.

Chapter 18

Ishmael introduces Queequeg to the two owners of the Pequod, and at first they are furious, "not wanting a cannibal to step foot on the ship." Ishmael does some negotiating, and Queequeg shows off his skills, and this convinces Peleg (who gives Queequeg the ninetieth lay) but not Bildad, who is still hung up about how Queequeg is not a devout Christian. Regardless, the papers are signed, and Queequeg joins the crew.

Chapter 19

After the pair gets their papers signed at the Pequod, they leave and are called on by a strange man who claims that something is up with Captain Ahab, telling certain stories of him. Ishmael and Queequeg mark him, Elijah, as a crazy man and move on (perhaps very clear foreshadowing going on).

Chapter 20

This chapter details all the preparation needed before the Pequod sets sail. People build and repair the ship, while others stock the necessary materials for whaling and general ship life. Ishmael points out that when it comes to whaling especially, many of the things that the crew's livelihood rests upon are quite easily lost or destroyed at seetime, so it makes sense to take extras (of which Bildad's sister provided many of). Every day, Ishmael and Queequeg made the visit to the Pequod to see the general look of things and how they were progressing. Ishmael continues to ask questions about Captain Ahab, but is told nothing more than he already knows.

There is some quite direct foreshadowing with how Ishmael tries to blot out his concerns about Captain Ahab (and not having seen him once) out of his mind.

Chapter 21

It is the early morning before the Pequod is scheduled to embark, and Ishmael sees shadows moving in the mist. Queequeg and him try to follow, but they are stopped by Elijah who is probably smoking crack again. Elijah once again gives his acid trip premonition and then stubbornly tries to stop the two from going. Ishmael and Queequeg then again hurry in the direction of the shadows but don't see anyone besides a sleeping man. People gradually begin to wake up and last minute work starts while Ishmael is told that Captain Ahab supposedly arrived in his cabin last night.

Chapter 22

The ship finally sets sail, with Captain Ahab yet to appear (although this is considered normal). Peleg and Bildad make their leave as they give advice and worry just a slight bit.

Chapter 23

Ishmael notices Bulkington, a man from the inn quite previously ago, is on the ship and talks about him in a sort of meta sense.

I'm not quite sure what to make of this chapter and the wording used. On one hand, I can certainly see the analogy Melville/Ishmael is using to describe how it seems Bulkington is adverse to staying on land (departing on another long journey after just having gotten back from a new one), but there are also hints of foreshadowing, especially with how Melville writes: "this six-inch chapter is the stoneless grave of Bulkington" (Melville 94). Melville's analogy is also somewhat worrying as it talks about a ship crashing into the land from which it sailed. It seems quite likely that the ship will crash in the future of the book, and many might be lost.

Chapter 24

Ishmael goes on a rant about how whaling is one of the most significant professions and contributes greatly to people all over the world, lamenting how it is never recognized or given its true glory from the outside.

Chapter 25

As an addendum to his rant, Ishmael talks about how kings and queens probably use whale oil to oil their heads.

Take that British people! Yeah...

Chapter 26

Ishmael speaks of the stoicism of Starbuck, the chief mate of the Pequod. He talks about how Starbuck is a smart man, seeing courage as a necessary tool but not something to blindly use. Ishmael also potentially alludes to some spiritual troubles that Starbuck faces and how they are the one thing he might truly fear.

Chapter 27

Ishmael describes the other two main chiefs: Stubb (a man indifferent to many things likely because of how much he smokes), and Flask (a small, whale-bloodthirsty man). Each of the three captains chooses a harpooner for themselves. Starbuck chooses Queequeg, Stubb chooses Tashtego (a Native American), and Flask chooses Daggoo (a very tall African man).

Ishmael then describes how many of the other crew are islanders, with the white man being leaders and the other people merely providing muscle.

Chapter 28

Ishmael once again talks about how his subconscious worries for Captain Ahab. One day, however, Captain Ahab finally appears from out of his cabin, and Ishmael is struck by his burnt (?) appearance with a lightning like caused symbol going down his face and potentially his body. Ishmael notes the ivory leg Ahab has and how, as the weather warms up and became less cloudy, Ahab gradually becomes less of a recluse and cheers up.

Chapter 29

Ahab usually doesn't patrol at nights because he does not want to wake the crew with his stride, but one day he forgets of this and paces in the middle of the night. This wakes up Stubb who tells him to shut up, and in response Ahab tells him to go away with some not very PG-13 words. Stubb then goes away after a bit, but has a hissy fit (he kinda goes on a whole malding spree) because no one's ever talked to him like that. Poor Stubb :pensive:. Dough Boy!

Chapter 30

Captain Ahab smokes windward and realizes that he no longer finds comfort in it. With this, he yeets his pipe into the sea. Littering isn't cool folks.

Chapter 31

Stubb speaks of a quite surreal dream he had where the moral was that in the end he should be glad that he was kicked by Ahab. I'm really not sure where all of this is coming from or where it's going.

Chapter 32

Ishmael/Melville—the distinction isn't perhaps as clear because the speaker does mention Moby Dick as “this book” (Melville 123), but that could simply be Ishmael's perspective as if he's writing this book—goes on a rather long talk about the classification of whales and his own personal system for them based on size. Ishmael separates whales into the Folio, the Octavo, and the Duodecimo. I won't go too much into detail of each specific whale because I hardly think that's relevant. All that is needed to be known is that the Sperm Whale is the Leviathan of the sea (the biggest) and what every whaler wants to get their hands on. The Right Whale is also worth mentioning, but is not as significant.

Chapter 33

Ishmael talks about the difference between the senior harpooner and the captain and how there used to be a job called the specksnyder which was on equal footing to the captain. I don't really understand what he was trying to say about Captain Ahab in the last part of the chapter.

Chapter 34

Ishmael talks of the dining situation in the cabin. Ahab first enters, then Starbuck, Stubb, and Flask follow in that order. Ishmael points out the at first odd domesticness of the other officers at the dining table, but explains how Ahab, although never demanding anything, socially owns and is the master of the table. They then leave in reverse order and the harpooners enter, eating with a far more open mood (they also harass Dough-Boy this is so sad).

Ishmael then talks about how the cabin is very infrequently visited by everyone due in part to Ahab's anti-social presence, and most people simply enter the cabin to get to their sleeping quarters.

Chapter 35

Ishmael describes the serenity of being up at the mast-head and the stories associated with it. He chillingly describes how one loses their thoughts and identity in staring at the sea for so long, making note of how many people have missed whales doing so.

Chapter 36

Ahab calls everyone to assembly and announces that he is offering a golden coin to anyone who can kill a great, white whale. He even goes to say that the purpose of this trip is to defeat it. The harpooners mention that this sounds like a whale named Moby Dick. This exclamation ignites the crew, except for Starbuck who thinks that Ahab has gone mad with vengeance. Ahab then passes on a goblet to everyone, especially the harpooners, to make sure that they pledge their willingness.

Chapter 37

Ahab has an emo soliloquy about how he's going to beat the shit out of Moby Dick.

Chapter 38

Starbuck malds at how literally everyone besides him is following Ahab. Starbuck resolves to do his best to counter what Ahab is doing, and holds out hope that Moby Dick won't be found in the vastness of the ocean.

Chapter 39

Stubb doesn't really know what to expect for the future so he's just laughing everything off.

I think he's sorta gone insane tbh that kick from Ahab awakened something in him.

Chapter 40

The crew is, for the most part, drunk and celebrating around. They dance and cheer and have fun, but a few stragglers, such as Pip, seem unhappy with this. A spanish sailor says some no no racist stuff to Dagoo, and a small fight breaks out, but it is quickly stopped as people have to man their positions. Pip in particular is worried about those who have been riled up by Captain Ahab and wishes that they wouldn't blindly charge after Moby Dick.

Chapter 41

Ishmael admits that he too vowed to take down Moby Dick. He then goes into detail about the rumours surrounding Moby Dick and other sperm whales, some supernatural and some not. Ishmael goes in depth explaining how perfectly Ahab hid his madness and fury for revenge under the guise of grief until he gained the position of captain and an outlet for his vengeance. Ishmael even remarks how well picked the crew was for such an otherwise traitorous task: none of the officers standing up to Ahab and much of the crew being fully supportive and bloodthirsty towards whales.

This chapter in my opinion is quite beautiful, especially when talking about the madness lying deep within Ahab.

Chapter 42

Ishmael ponders quite deeply over the idea of whiteness and how some find it to be greatly associated with regality and divineness, but in the world of whaling, it is associated with great fear with regards to perhaps rocky waters as well as the great Albino whale.

To be honest, I didn't get a lot of this chapter (a lot of comparisons were made, so I guess it's not really a whole lot content wise just analysis that I should probably do sometime), so I might have to go back to it when I'm less distracted.

Chapter 43

During the night watch, one of the crew members claims to hear something similar to a person coughing. He mentions rumours that there is someone unknown to the crew hiding in the ship.

Chapter 44

This chapter describes how, daily, Ahab goes into his cabin and intensely studies on maps the sightings and migrations of sperm whales in order to find Moby Dick. The end of the chapter once again reaffirms that the fury inside Ahab burns brightly.

Chapter 45

Ishmael/Melville lists out what he believes to be some very important points for moving forward and gives great detail and credible citations for them. Firstly, there have been whales that have escaped being attacked only to meet their former attackers once again and die. Secondly, some whales have been so notorious that they have been systematically hunted.

Ishmael also points out how many land men don't fully believe the true might of the whales, and then gives credible examples of how they have decimated ships in an almost deliberate way.

Chapter 46

This chapter describes the delicate balancing act Ahab must play with his vengeance towards Moby Dick and his job. Ahab must be careful not to allow any uprisings from Starbuck and the crew, having to entertaining them with lesser beasts along the way. Because of this, Ahab cannot with reckless abandon chase after Moby Dick, but instead continue on the journey of the Pequod while calculatingly planning his next moves.

Chapter 47

Everyone is lulled by the comforting atmosphere on the boat, with Queequeg and Ishmael weaving away, that the appearance of a school of sperm whales, called out by Tashtego, gives a sudden shock to everyone. Ahab called out his orders and the crew readied the boats, but at the end of the chapter, something sudden caught everyone's attention.

Chapter 48

As a group of whales are spotted, Ahab reveals that he had been hiding five other people, whom Starbuck suspects are primarily to help slay Moby Dick. After a brief moment of surprise at this, the leaders make orders to lower the boats. Ishmael and Queequeg are on Starbuck's boat. Queequeg attempts to attack the whale, but he is unable to hit it and they are for a moment lost in the mist at sea, with the whale having capsized the boat. They then wait a few hours to hear that the Pequod approaching them. They get on the Pequod and see the boat knocked away.

Chapter 49

Ishmael is somewhat surprised to hear what happened last chapter is a rather common occurrence in the world of whaling. As such, he somewhat humorously begins working on his will. This also changes his viewpoint on life: everyday is another day in which he is able to safely live.

Chapter 50

Ishmael talks about how some captains do get on boats while hunting whales, while others do not. Following this, he explains how Ahab's position is a bit special, given the condition of his leg. Normally, Ahab wouldn't go on a boat for any other reason but to possibly give commands, and so he wasn't specially given a boat. Despite this, however, Ahab planned carefully to be able to pull this off.

Ishmael then goes to talk about the five mysterious men on the boat and how the excitement about them faded quickly among the crew, perhaps such a thing being a rather common sight. However, Ishmael does point out that one cannot simply ignore Fedallah, who potentially might have some control over Ahab.

Chapter 51

Day after day throughout their journey, at night the crew would see the silvery spout of a sperm whale that would disappear before they could ever give it chase. It seemed to be taunting them, leading to some of the crew surmising it to be Moby Dick itself. As they enter Cape Good Hope (I think that's where they went?), the weather becomes much worse, and many see creatures darting about underwater. All of this seems to be quite foreboding.

Chapter 52

One day, the Pequod passes by another ship by the name of the Albatross. Ahab tries to call out to them to ask if they've seen Moby Dick, but no response is heard back. He also seems to be a bit melancholy when the fishes scatter in response to his voice.

Chapter 53

Ishmael talks about how usually when whaling ships meet each other, they have a gam, or they board each other's ships and be amiable for a while. Ishmael contrasts this to other professions over the sea, also slipping into a rant about how only whaling captains do not laze around.

I'm not quite able to understand the analogy Ishmael is trying to make in the end of the first page of the chapter addressing why the two ships in this case didn't gam (although perhaps that's solely due to Ahab's lone fixation on slaying Moby Dick).

Chapter 54

The Pequod ran into another ship called the Town-Ho and had a gam with it, leading to Ishmael telling a quite long story about some drama revolving around the ship and its crew. In short essence, two crew members, Radney and Steelkilt, had quite the feud, even so much leading to a whole mutiny. Fast-forwarding, they spotted Moby Dick and, in chasing it, Radney was eaten, and Steelkilt deserted.

In my opinion, what's of most importance is Moby Dick's appearance, signaling that he truly is close. There is no doubt in my mind that Ahab will take this news with great interest, to say the least.

Chapter 55

Ishmael has another rant about how bad some sources are at portraying pictures of whales.

Chapter 56

Ishmael talks about more accurate paintings and representations of whales and whaling in existence. He goes into the most detail regarding two paintings from the French painter, Garnery.

Chapter 57

Ishmael talks about the various places besides paintings where one might see whales: in engravings of wood or bone, in metal, and even in the rocks and stars.

Chapter 58

The Pequod now passes through a wide expanse of brit, the miniscule food of the Right Whale, and they do encounter several groups of Right Whales.

Ishmael then goes to talk about some of the severe differences between that which you can find on land versus on sea. Certainly, the sea is far more unforgiving to all forms of life, and all animals are eternally at war with each other.

One particular subsection I liked was how Ishmael mentioned that, regardless of how much man develops technology, the sea is still unforgiving and it will try its best to destroy you. This is unfortunately still the case even to this day.

Chapter 59

Daggoo sees a white mass rising up in the distance and signals that the White Whale has come. Everyone prepares to fight, but it turns out that it was a large squid. In whaling experience, this seems to be a quite rare and perhaps auspicious (in a good or bad way I'm not certain) event. Ishmael also talks about how squid are perhaps the food for sperm whales.

Ahab in particular is quite excited when he first hears this, but when realizing that it is not Moby Dick, he turns back silently.

Chapter 60

Ishmael describes what exactly a whale line is: how it is wrapped all around the whaling boats and can be very dangerous. He says this will help in the understanding of the next chapter.

Chapter 61

Just as Queequeg predicts at the start of the chapter, the Pequod runs into a sperm whale. The boats are quickly lowered, and Stubb kills the whale with the help of Tashtego. The manner in which the whale dies is described quite gruesomely and is a bit sad.

Chapter 62

Ishmael describes the process of the chase: rowing and then darting the whale. Ishmael talks about how the harpooner must first row with all their might towards the whale, all while yelling and having their back towards it, and then they must turn around and throw the dart as hard as they can. Only after this do they switch places with the headsman. Ishmael laments this strategy, as often the harpooner is far too exhausted, which he believes to be the cause of many fishery failures. He wants harpooners to not have to row, as it is not the speed of the whale that often causes misses in the whaling business.

Chapter 63

Ishmael describes the sheathe for the harpooner darts found on the whaling boats, called the crotch. The crotch has two darts that are tied together, in order to allow for multiple hits on the whale. Most of the time though, this rarely does not happen, and the second iron as it is called is usually left dangling in the sea. Ishmael heavily foreshadows that this will become a great danger in later chapters.

Chapter 64

After Stubb slew the sperm whale, he was quite enthusiastic, and asked for whale steak to be made. During supper, sharks began eating away at the whale corpse attached to the ship. After a brief while, Stubb calls the cook, Fleece, to complain that the whale steak is too well done, taking him to go preach to the sharks outside (?) and then ordering him harvest more whale tomorrow and cook it more wildly.

Chapter 65

Ishmael describes the many parts of a whale that are sometimes eaten. Despite their rarity, whales are not quite seen as fine dining. They are too rich, and perhaps too abundant in meat. What landmen particularly take most horror in, Ishmael believes, is that they are eating the whale in the light of its own oil. Ishmael points out the hypocrisy in this relating to even utensils being made out of livestock parts, the same animals in the food of landmen.

Chapter 66

Because everyone is tired, they do not immediately begin cutting into the whale. Despite this, some of the crew still does have to keep anchor-watch. Queequeg and another person use whale-spades to kill the sharks trying to eat the carcass of the whale.

Chapter 67

The crew skins the whale of its blubber, involving a somewhat arduous cooperated task.

Chapter 68

Ishmael talks about how the blubber is considered the skin of the whale, then going into detail about the markings and scratches sometimes found on this blubber. He then goes to talk about how remarkable its blubber is, keeping it warm in the Arctic regions.

Chapter 69

Ishmael remarks how, after being stripped of its skin, the whale is given a most terrible funeral, its carcass being eaten by various vulturous sea creatures. Ishmael also mentions how other ships will avoid this spot now due to ghosts (I think that's what he was saying?).

The last couple of paragraphs offer some quite interesting commentary on orthodoxy and tradition. Is this Ishmael rejecting the idea of ghosts and superstition?

Chapter 70

Ishmael talks about the beheading of the whale, which is supposed to happen before the skinning. It is a intricate job that whalers are proud of. Ahab then talks to the whale head, saying how it has seen many a things and yet talks of none of them. A crewmate then spots a stranger ship ahead.

Ahab once again says something at the end of the chapter that I don't understand, but it seems to be quite an important analogy. Perhaps come back to this for analysis.

Chapter 71

The stranger ship turns out to be a ship called the Jeroboam. The crew has an epidemic, so the ship only gets a safe distance to the Pequod. In addition, a crazy man claiming to be the archangel Gabriel is on the boat, shrieking and having a decent bit of control over the crew. Ahab asks about Moby Dick, prompting the Jeroboam's captain to tell a story of how a single man died to him. Ahab also tries to hand over a letter for the man who died, but Gabriel manages to throw it back.

This Gabriel also sort of curses Ahab in his journey to hunt Moby Dick, much like Elijah and many others. The omens and foreshadowing are ever increasing.

Chapter 72

Ishmael describes how Queequeg inserts the blubber hook while tending to the whale. Ishmael has the duty of monkey-rope and suspending Queequeg. They are joined together so that if either falls, they both do. Daggoo and Tashtego help with the sharks below Queequeg, but they are also quite close to hitting him. After Queequeg finishes this arduous task, Dough Boy hands him ginger water (given by Aunt Charity), which upsets Stubb. Stubb goes down to get Queequeg alcohol and throw away the ginger.

Chapter 73

Surprisingly, Ahab makes the order that a right whale should be hunted if the opportunity arises. After a bit of time, one is spotted, and Stubb and Flask slay it. There, they converse about how Ahab wants this to balance the ship in some superstitious sense and how Fedallah is the devil in disguise. Flask is in the end right about the head being put on the other side of the ship.

Chapter 74

Ishmael gives a detailed description of the cetology of the sperm whale in comparison to the right whale, mostly desecrating the head. Ishmael talks about the vision of the whale, having eyes where humans would have ears. This means that whales are unable to see directly in front of them; however, they compensate by being able to focus on two disjoint images at the same time. The mouth of the sperm whale is then detailed, with Ishmael mentioning how the harpooners harvest the jaw and the ivory teeth.

Chapter 75

Ishmael now takes it to describe the right whale's appearance, noting whiskers, a far more prominent tongue, blinds of bone, and two spout holes, to name a few features. It is then stated that one of the heads will fall into the sea, and the other shall too (perhaps along with the ship?). Ishmael notes the Stoic expression of the right whale and the Platonian expression of the sperm whale.

Chapter 76

Most of the volume of the front of the whale is almost devoid of organs, meaning that it has high ramming power.

Chapter 77

Ishmael describes the inside of the whale, detailing the Case and the Heidelburgh Tun, which contain the valuable materials such as the spermaceti.

Chapter 78

As Tashtego harvests the spermaceti from the sperm whale, he slips and falls into the vesicle with the oil, with the whale head itself also falling into the sea. Everyone is in a panic, and Queequeg dives down to save Tashtego, once again saving the day.

Chapter 79

Ishmael details the physiognomy of the sperm whale, describing its countenance and how far from a human it is. This, to Ishmael, adds to the beauty and dignity of the whale's stature, and even goes as far to call the whale wise, not speaking and with a face certainly hard to read.

Chapter 80

Ishmael maps out the inner head of the sperm whale, detailing the skull, brain, and spinal cords.

Chapter 81

The Pequod encounters a German ship by the name of the Jungfrau, which is out of oil. Somewhat begrudgingly, the Pequod fills their oil canister. A perhaps sickly sperm whale is spotted in the distance, and the two ships each set out boats to give chase to this whale. The Jungfrau, being slightly ahead, taunts the Pequod, much to the fury of the officers. Channeling this frustration, the Pequod's boats overtake the Jungfrau's, and the crew slays the sperm whale. Unfortunately, the carcass sinks. The Jungfrau then chases after a type of whale that looks like a sperm whale, but to an experienced whaler is certainly not one.

Chapter 82

Ishmael once again talks about the honor of whaling and how many mythological figures, such as Perseus and others, can be considered whalers.

Chapter 83

There are some naysayers to the feasibility of the story of Jonah and the whale; however, Ishmael sets them straight with accounts from others and claims of miracles.

Chapter 84

In order to slay a much faster whale, Stubb takes out the pitchpole, a far longer and lighter alternative to the harpoon. Using this, the whale is hit from a somewhat close range, and it slowly bleeds out.

Chapter 85

Ishmael talks about the whalers' debate over whether the spout of the whale releases water or mist (but they're the same thing so who cares). To do this, Ishmael goes into explaining the respiratory system of the whale, how it can survive while breathing so little, and the periodicity of these spouts. In the end, however, there is no sufficient way to tell, and the spout of the whale is thought to be poisonous, so nobody tries to confirm.

Chapter 86

Ishmael talks about the beauty of the tail of the whale, listing its five major purposes and describing its elegance. Several comparisons between the whale and the elephant are made in terms of how functionally similar the tail and the trunk respectively are as well as the holiness of both animals. At the end of the chapter, Ishmael once again relates this back to the entire body, saying that he knows only so much about the tail that he cannot begin to know about the head nor the face. The chapter ends with the assertion that the whale has no face (perhaps for analysis try to think about what the whale symbolically even represents).

Chapter 87

The Pequod follows its course through the narrow straights of Sunda (passing through Java). As it chases a school of whales, the Pequod is also chased by Malaysian pirates, although the Pequod quickly loses them. The boats are then dropped to go after the many whales, but in the end only a few are caught. Ishmael does hint at the end of the chapter that the other whales were captured by some other ship, though.

Chapter 88

Ishmael talks about the two types of schools of whales one might see when whaling. Firstly there are the female schools, also known as the harems, where there is one large male whale/lord/schoolmaster defending the group and many female whales. Secondly there are the male schools, where there are only males. As time passes, whales from the male schools will go to become lords, and the lord whales from the female schools will roam for the rest of their lives alone. When a whale is struck in a female school, other whales crowd around the struck whale, potentially becoming easier to hunt; whereas, for male schools there is no shared empathy between them.

Chapter 89

Sometimes one may lose a whale due to a slipping or a storm, leading to legal ambiguity as to who owns it when say another ship catches this whale. Ishmael explains the reasonably widely accepted rules of whaling in these cases.

1. A Fast-Fish belongs to the party fast to it.
2. A Loose-Fish is fair game for anybody who can soonest catch it.

In this case, fast means in the sense of fishing lines I believe. In short, if there's any show of possession and intent to keep the whale, it belongs to that party; else, it is free for the taking.

Ishmael demonstrates this with a specific legal case and then begins to relate this phrase of Fast-Fish and Loose-Fish to life and humanity itself.

Chapter 90

In somewhat of a criticism of the law, Ishmael describes an English law in which the head and tail of any whale captured near English shores must go to the royalty. Ishmael talks of a story in which some poor mariners had this happen to them and their spoils were taken by the rich lord despite all begging.

Chapter 91

The Pequod encounters a French ship called the Rose-Bud which picked up two dead whales and had a massive odor. As they had a gam, Stubb was told that the captain was very inexperienced. As such, he worked with the Rose-Bud crew to get them to drop the whales into the ocean, feigning some business about an illness or rather. What the Rose-Bud didn't know was that there was valuable ambergris inside the whale, and Stubb went to retrieve it after the ship left.

Chapter 92

Ishmael talks about the importance of ambergris and the origins of the misconception that whales smell bad.

Chapter 93

One of the oarsmen sprains their hand, leaving Pip (a rather timid, weak boy) to substitute in for him. Upon the first encounter with a whale, Pip jumps out and gets tangled in the line. This forces Tashtego to cut the line, and the whale is lost in the process. Pip is scolded and told not to jump out of the boat, but the next time he does quite the same, except he does not get tangled. He is left at sea by Stubb, who thought that the other boats might pick up him up, but they did not. Only by chance did the ship save Pip, who seems to have gone mad because of his abandonment experience at sea. According to Ishmael, this is common in whaling, and it even happened to him.

Chapter 94

As Stubb catches another whale and the same steps are prepared, Ishmael has a fun time squeezing lumps in the sperm whale oil containers. He also details more about the materials harvested in the blubber room and elsewhere.

Chapter 95

In somewhat humorous mocking of Christian tradition, the mincer fashions a cassock out of whale skin from its thing and wears it.

:raised_eyebrows:

Chapter 96

The Pequod finally starts the fire in the tryworks to retrieve the oil from the blubber. Ishmael goes into great detail about the fire, how it almost symbolizes the evilness in everyone, especially the revenge filled Ahab, and he also recalls how he was about to capsize the ship because he fell asleep at the helm. With this, Ishmael alludes to a story about Solomon, which I can't fully grasp the meaning of.

Chapter 97

Unlike in merchant ships, oil is commonplace for whaling ships, and many of the crew take lamps and fill them up at the tryworks.

Chapter 98

After the oil is casked, the deck is cleaned quite well and made comfortable. Ishmael describes how even with this, the cycle of whaling shall still continue, with more whaling, more oil extracting, and more cleaning, but this is all in a days work for a whaler.

Chapter 99

This chapter explores the different views the crewmates have on the golden doubloon (the one Ahab promised to give to the one who slays Moby Dick). Notably, Ahab sees himself in it, Starbuck sees it as a sign of goodness, and Pip sees it as a sign of the demise of everyone.

Chapter 100

The Pequod encounters another ship, one with a captain whose arm has been lost to Moby Dick. Ahab impatiently waits through their conversation before asking where the whale has went, and then promptly leaves when they answer.

The captain of the Sammy is of the opinion that Moby Dick should not be hunted, as he has already lost an arm. This, combined with the surgeon on board saying that Ahab's blood is boiling, only serves to magnify the sheer madness and fury of Ahab.

Chapter 101

Ishmael talks about the famous whaling house made in name of Samuel Enderby as well as the previous chapter's ship of the same name. He then goes into detail about how jolly the English and Danish whalers are, with high supplies of food and alcohol on their ships.

This chapter is called the decanter, and the last sentence of the chapter is "And this empties the decanter"; however, he never explicitly mentions any decanting going on. This implies a more symbolic meaning. Perhaps, like in decanting, Ishmael is saying that one should get everything they can out of whaling?

Chapter 102

Ishmael gives some descriptions of the skeletal structure of the whale, using information he had gained from a beautiful skeleton in the Arsacides.

Chapter 103

Ishmael gives a detailed, almost mathematical description of the structure of the whale, although lamenting that its full beauty and size captured not without the flesh.

Chapter 104

Ishmael gives a detailed account of archaeological information about whales and their history.

One has to appreciate just how much time goes into researching and writing about these historical facts about whales. Especially given the time period when information was not as dispersible, Melville must have spent quite a long time accumulating whaling information.

Chapter 105

Ishmael argues against two points made of whales: 1) they have decreased in size since ancient times and 2) they are bound to go extinct. While it may be likely that Ishmael is right that the size of whales has not changed drastically over time, we now know that whales are endangered.

Chapter 106

In hurriedly landing back on the deck of the Pequod, Ahab damaged his ivory leg and had to call the carpenter to make a new one out of sperm whale bones.

One thing mentioned near the start of this chapter is the concept bad deeds will pay themselves around in full or even more. This perhaps is even more foreshadowing for the events to come.

Chapter 107

Ishmael describes the curiously handy, but almost soulless carpenter.

Chapter 108

This chapter details the conversations between Ahab and the carpenter as the ivory leg is being created. Ahab talks quite oddly about several matters with a rather passive-aggressive tone towards the carpenter. Ahab talks the blacksmith being named Prometheus, alluding to the story of the Greek Prometheus and how as humans are made out of fire, it only suits them they should go to fire/hell. Another part of the dialogue relates to how Ahab can still feel as though he has two living legs, and oddly he relates it back to one (it sounded like he was addressing the carpenter, but it very well could have been himself) experiencing hell without a body. All in all, the carpenter finds the conversation quite weird.

Chapter 109

A leak has been found in the oil casks. Starbuck reports to Ahab asking to make the preparations to fix the leak (which will take some time); however, Ahab impatiently wants to make it to the Japanese fishing ground (where Moby Dick previously battled him), and so he refuses. Surprised and slightly infuriated, Starbuck tries his best to persuade Ahab, but Ahab refuses and even pulls a gun on Starbuck, who questioned his authority. Starbuck tells Ahab to be not afraid of him but rather himself. While, his fiery attitude does not calm down nonetheless, Ahab relents and gives the order to fix the leak, which is somewhat uncharacteristic of him.

An interesting comparison is made by Ahab, where he describes that “[t]here is one God that is Lord over the earth, and one Captain that is lord over the Pequod” (Melville 379). In this way, Ahab shows his true madness and power hunger, for he is almost comparing himself to a god or someone far above any one of the crew.

Chapter 110

Queequeg was stricken with a sickness and ordered a coffin and several other preparations to be made for him. Before his final departure though, he remembered he had business on land that he needed to take care of, so he decided to not die. And then, uhhhh... he lived. Pretty based.

Chapter 111

This chapter is the prelude to Ahab’s main performance on the stage. The Pequod enters the Pacific and the Japanese fishing waters where Moby Dick must surely be.

Chapter 112

Ishmael tells the story of the blacksmith, who lost both his legs in the cold, got robbed, and then lost his family.

Chapter 113

Ahab talks with the blacksmith, asking why he has not gone mad. The captain then orders for the blacksmith to make 12 harpoons for him, which Ahab then forges together and cools with the blood of the harpooners. Pip goes insane.

Chapter 114

Ishmael talks about the temporary calm entering further into the waters, yet lamenting that it shall not last. Ishmael foreshadows a grim fate for the Pequod and its crew.

Chapter 115

The Pequod crosses paths with a ship called the Bachelor, which was very successful on its whaling journey. The captain invites Ahab aboard, but not having any information on Moby Dick, Ahab refuses.

At the end of the chapter, Ahab takes out a vial of sand, perhaps as a way of remembering his home of Nantucket. Does Ahab know whether or not he will die?

Chapter 116

Ahab kills a whale and finds some philosophical meaning in how it turns upwards towards the sun as it dies.

I feel like I'm missing a lot in this chapter in terms of analysis and deeper meaning.

Chapter 117

Ahab wakes up at night to the footsteps of Fedallah, who has a prophecy. Fedallah claims that only when Ahab sees two hearses (like funeral thingies) at sea, one made with American wood, will he die, and that only hemp will be the reason he dies (perhaps something similar to what was mentioned in previous chapters with one being wrapped around in their own whaling boat line?). In addition, Fedallah will die before Ahab.

Ahab is not totally believing of this, vowing that he will slay Moby Dick and live, and that he is immortal at sea.

Chapter 118

In calculating the position of the ship to know whether to face towards the equator, Ahab curses science for not being able to tell him where Moby Dick is at this moment. In addition, Fedallah supposedly senses good prospects for Ahab yet fatal ones for himself. Stubb curses Ahab to death.

Chapter 119

The Pequod encounters a rough storm, with the sail canvas even being blown off. While hearing the thunder, the sailors look up to see the corposants (plasma at the ends of the mast and other parts of the ship, thought of to be a good omen). Fedallah says some sort of prayer to the spirit behind these corposants. Ahab's harpoon starts catching on fire, which Starbuck takes to be a sign that God is against his mission to slay Moby Dick. This instills fear into the crew, what Ahab feared Starbuck might do some day.

Chapter 120

Ahab refuses to fix the anchors, letting the ship ride out the storm. This shows how little he cares about the state of the crew.

Chapter 121

Stubb and Flask make note of how, by tying up the anchors, it seems that they will never be used again. While Flask is worried that Ahab is possessed, Stubb is still joking around, showing his lack of care for anything.

Chapter 122

Tashtego just wants the storm to stop so he can drink rum. This presents a far different view as someone on the ship compared to the quarrels and conversations between officers.

Chapter 123

The wind clears up and the sails are repaired. Starbuck goes down to Ahab's cabin to inform him of this, but he is sleeping. Starbuck sees the musket on the wall and wrestles with himself on whether or not to shoot Ahab. If he does, he might be able to see his family again. If he doesn't, who knows what fate will befall him? Despite this, he doesn't shoot in the end.

Chapter 124

Due to the electricity of the thunderstorm, the compasses of the Pequod are inverted, which is noticed by Ahab. Ahab then constructs a new makeshift compass using a few materials, awing some of the crew.

In this chapter, the officers act rather meekly, which is just a bit uncharacteristic of them. Perhaps they have all truly realized their fate and yet are none to stop Ahab?

Just like previous texts we have read (the Iliad/Aeneid) pride plays a big part in this story as well. It is precisely this "fatal pride" of Ahab that will lead to the demise of the Pequod. In addition, however, we see once again that fate too plays a role in this story.

Chapter 125

With his quadrant broken and needles thrown off by lightning, Ahab goes to the log and the line for ship navigation. One of the sailors points out that the line is too frayed and rotten, likely to snap, but Ahab carries on. When the line does snap, Ahab merely asks it to be mended.

After this, Pip comes along seemingly quite mad in the head. Ahab treats him not as a pest, but rather welcomes him in open arms to his cabin, talking of how they share so much.

When referring to Pip, Ahab talks about how the heavens are so ignorant to the struggles of man. With this, Ahab almost seems to be directly opposing the gods and the heavens. This is quite evident in how he seems to be rejecting fate and making himself out to be his own sort of lord or god.

Chapter 126

As the Pequod is sailing, screams are heard in the distance, which Ahab claims to be seals, although they sound like people. Later that night, a sailor does fall into sea. This warrants the construction of a new, lighter life-buoy. Starbuck asks the carpenter to make Queequeg's coffin into a life-buoy (a bit of twisted irony), which he reluctantly obliges to. He puts on thirty lines, so that thirty people will be fighting over the buoy should the ship go down.

Chapter 127

Ahab, seeing the life-buoy coffin, is rather displeased. He starts talking about the sound a coffin makes when it is rung (I don't really understand this chapter all too much to be completely honest).

In addition, we see more hints of Ahab interacting with Pip, likely to show how Ahab has been cultivating another person of madness.

Chapter 128

The Pequod meets the ship the Rachel, and the captain claims to have spotted Moby Dick just a day ago. However, the captain wishes Ahab to help search for a boat they lost that day, which is later stated to have the captain's son onboard. Ahab hesitates for a slight bit (at least I think) before outrightly refusing him and going on.

Chapter 129

This chapter details another conversation between Pip and Ahab. Ahab sees his madness too far alike in Pip and pushes him farther away (leaving him in the cabin to be specific), lest he be cured somehow. Ahab doesn't want to be cured, and thinks of his madness as what keeps him alive rather.

Pip himself certainly does seem to have gone mad. He detaches himself from his own personality, speaking in third person as if Pip was another person and calling him a coward. In this way, Pip somewhat rejects himself and seems to be grown out of old self, perhaps due in part to the ways of Ahab.

Chapter 130

Now finally in the last stretch of finding Moby Dick, the crew has all gone mostly silent under the constant pressure and surveillance of Ahab. Ahab and Fedallah share but few words, but there seems to be something connecting them.

Ahab, distrusting some of the crew (even the officers) as to whether they would actually point out Moby Dick if it were to be spotted, asks that he himself be put up at the mast head. In order to do this, whalers must rely on someone attentive to hold the rope so that they stay there without falling into sea. For this task, Ahab chooses none other than Starbuck, the person who most directly opposes him. This raises an interesting question: did Ahab know that Starbuck already refused a chance to kill him that one day with the musket?

At the end of the chapter, a bird takes Ahab's hat. Ishmael alludes to a similar story of how a man named Tarquin become the emperor of Rome after this happened, but only after the bird returned his hat to him. Ahab's hat was not returned. This is likely more blatant foreshadowing of what's to come.

Chapter 131

The Pequod meets a ship called the Delight which lost five men recently to Moby Dick. Ahab claims that he will slay the whale, but the captain of the Delight tells him that it is a suicide mission.

As the Pequod leaves, the Delight's captain remarks how the coffin of the Pequod is already shown.

Chapter 132

Given the fair weather and sun on this day, Ahab becomes a bit sentimental, thinking about his family and how far his whaling journey has come. Starbuck tries to use this (while also talking about his own family) to convince Ahab to stop going so vehemently after Moby Dick, but this doesn't work. Ahab believes it to be his unstoppable fate to try (and perhaps fail) to slay Moby Dick.

Chapter 133

The Pequod finally encounters Moby Dick. Ahab claims the doubloon temporarily, and they give chase. Two boats are destroyed in the ensuing fight, and no damage is dealt to Moby Dick. The whale picks up speed, and the boats are left no choice but to return to the Pequod and give chase behind. As night falls, the crew can no longer see the spout, and so they travel in the general direction of the whale.

Chapter 134

On the second day of the chase, the Pequod loses Moby Dick for a short while, but then it surfaces, and the boats are lowered once again. Once again some boats are destroyed, with Stubb and Flask having to be rescued from the ocean. Ahab has to cut his line, but darts his harpoon into the whale (at least I think). Somewhere in this process, however, Fedallah is taken under and likely dies (remember back to the prophecy of how Fedallah dies before Ahab). Ahab breaks his new bone leg once again, and thus everyone retreats to the ship.

As they make preparations to continue the chase, Starbuck tries and fails once again to persuade Ahab not to go.

Chapter 135

As the third day of the chase ensues, Starbuck begins to see a grim fate lying ahead of him. Ahab drops his boat to go attack Moby Dick, only to see that Fedallah is caught on the whale with the previous day's line. This fulfills the first hearse of Fedallah's prophecy. Seeing the whale grow slower, Ahab harpoons it once, but the line breaks. The whale then wheels around to attack the Pequod. The officers of the Pequod contemplate their deaths in that moment. Seeing the whale charge the Pequod, Ahab realizes the second hearse, the one of American wood, has been fulfilled as well. Ahab tries to harpoon the whale in the last second to save the ship, but he does not realize that the line is running out. Thus, it catches his neck and flings him into the depths of the ocean, fulfilling the prophecy of the hemp being his death. As the whale hits the Pequod, it sinks, but not before Tashtego nails a bird to the mast, an allusion to the devil taking "a living part of heaven along" (Melville 452).

In the epilogue, we learn that Ishmael was actually on Ahab's whaling boat, and was the sole survivor, making his way along to the coffin buoy and being rescued by the Rachel in its search for the missing children.

I'll miss Queequeg so much.

MacBeth

Act 1

Scene 1

The three witches divinate their next meeting to be after a battle between has ended, before the sun sets. This meeting place shall be a heath, a place with low grass and shrubbery.

Scene 2

Both a bloody captain and Thane of Ross gives recount of Macbeth's heroic victories, defeating Macdonwald, the Norweyan lord, and the traitorous Thane of Cawdor. Duncan is delighted and wants to give Cawdor's title to Macbeth.

Scene 3

Macbeth and Banquo meet the three witches. These witches foretell that Macbeth will gain the title of Thane of Cawdor and become king. They also foretell that Banquo's sons will become king in the future.

Macbeth sees these premonitions as neither a bad nor good thing.

Scene 4

Duncan confirms that the original Thane of Cawdor has been executed and then greets Macbeth and Banquo. He thanks both of them and then pronounces that his eldest son, Malcom, will some day take the throne (I think).

Macbeth sees Malcom as a sort of rival, and reveals to the reader that he does desire the throne.

Scene 5

Lady Macbeth receives letters from Macbeth telling of his exploits. Upon hearing that the king is coming to the castle later that night, she immediately begins to scheme a plot to assassinate Duncan so that Macbeth can become ruler. Lady Macbeth sees Macbeth as too kind, and she wants to take matters into her own hands.

Scene 6

I can't really make out all of what's going on in this scene, but the basic gist is that Banquo and Duncan are at the castle, and Lady Macbeth is going to lead Duncan to Macbeth.

Scene 7

Macbeth begins to have second thoughts, but Lady Macbeth assures him and tells him to be a man and do it.

Act 2

Scene 1

Banquo hands his son his sword, and then he talks with Macbeth, promising to discuss the three witches another time. Banquo then leaves, leaving Macbeth to hallucinate a bloody dagger in front of him. He takes this as a sign of guiding him to his goal (assassinating Duncan) but it could very well be symbolic of what's to come after.

Scene 2

Macbeth murders two people in his sleep: Duncan and Donalbain (I think?). While Lady Macbeth is satisfied with the job and tells him not to think too hard about it, Macbeth is still a bit distraught and paranoid over what he has done.

Scene 3

The next morning, everyone wakes up and Lennox, Macduff, and Macbeth discover Duncan's dead body as they go to wake him up. Macbeth obviously plays his role during the duration of this. Immediately the blame is pinned on the servants, whom Macbeth said he had killed. While he is inquired as to why (the real reason being to place all blame in them), nobody really pushes further. Malcom and Donalbain are informed, and they decide to part their separate ways to avoid more conflict. Malcom goes to England, and Donalbain goes to Ireland.

Scene 4

Ross, Macduff, and an old man talk about how unnatural sightings were seen with falcons, owls, and Macbeth's horses. This talk also lets the reader know how Malcom and Donalbain are being accused of being a part of the assassination of the king and that Macbeth will be crowned the new king in Scone. Ross says he will go to Scone, while Macduff will go to Fife.

Act 3

Scene 1

Banquo suspects that Macbeth is behind the death of Duncan due to what the witches told him. Macbeth learns that Banquo and his son will be riding out later that day. With this knowledge in hand, Macbeth convinces two mercenaries to attempt to murder Fleance (and perhaps Banquo?) that day.

Scene 2

Both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are concerned for the future, with Lady Macbeth not wanting Macbeth to worry over things too much. Macbeth tells Lady Macbeth to be wary of Banquo, but he does not tell her the full plan.

Scene 3

Another murderer joins the party. They manage to slay Banquo, but Fleance escapes.

Scene 4

One of the murderers comes to inform Macbeth that Banquo has been slain but not Fleance. This upsets Macbeth, who begins to see illusions of Banquo's ghost at the dinner table during a feast with the nobles. Lady Macbeth is upset by this behavior, having to eventually bid the others away and cancel the feast. Macbeth asserts that he will meet with the three witches again to know what happens.

Scene 5

This is a bit of a weird scene (thought not to actually be written by Shakespeare). Hecate is mad that the witches meddled with the affairs of Macbeth and such by telling the future.

Scene 6

Lennox and another noble can see through Macbeth's scheme, also commenting on how Macduff, in England, and Macbeth seem to be preparing for war with each other.

Act 4

Scene 1

Macbeth meets with the three witches to learn more about his future. The witches tell Macbeth three main things: to beware Macduff, that no child born of woman will slay him, and that he will fall once some forest (?) comes against him. He is relieved but then again begins to worry once he is shown Banquo's descendants being crowned king.

Macbeth then learns from Lennox that Macduff has fled to England. Macbeth rues that he will kill Macduff's family.

Scene 2

Lady Macduff is worried that Macduff flees to England without them, believing him to betray the family. She is advised to flee, but it is too late as they are murdered (or at least Macduff's son is; it's not quite clear if Lady Macduff is murdered).

Side note: Macduff's son is (was) kinda spitting fire.

Other side note: What, you egg?

Scene 3

Macduff gains the trust of Malcolm and they band together, vowing to defeat Macbeth, being given commander Siward and ten thousand troops. Ross then breaks the tragic news to Macduff that all of his family has been killed. Macduff has no choice but to channel this grief into rage towards Macbeth.

Act 5

Scene 1

Scene 2

Scene 3

Scene 4

Scene 5

Scene 6

Scene 7

Scene 8