Chapter 1

1. What are the parts of the sailboat? (p.1) A wooden bowsprit, a steel pulpit, wooden mast and boom, stainless steel lifelines, a small cabin with two plastic portholes

2. Why was the ship’s hull so thick? (p.2) It was made before they knew how to make fiberglass thin.

3. What was the ship’s name? (p.2)

Frog

4. In what harbor was the boat kept? (p.2) Ventura harbor

5. What did Owen call the waves? (p.2) lumps

6. What is the main characters name? (p.1) David Alspeth

7. What was David’s uncle’s name? (p.2) Owen Alspeth

8. What killed David’s uncle? (p.3) Cancer

9. When David first visited his uncle, what overwhelmed him? (p.4) His uncle’s appearance.

10. How did David react to the smell of the room? (p 4)

He threw up on the floor.

11. What was in the envelope that Owen gave him? (p.5-6) The title to the boat

12. What was Owen’s request of David? (p.7) To spread his ashes out to see, away from the view of land.

13. Why did David panic and believe the unknown smell coming from the boat to be? (p.8)

The smell of Owen himself, his ghost.

Chapter 2

1. What is it that Owen showed David he could catch and eat? (p.10) Abalones

2. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the memory the more it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (p.11)

3. What was kept in the lazaret? (p.11)

Outboard motor, five gallon gas tank, and a battery

4. What was it that David never saw Owen use even once? (p.11)

The motor

5. What did knowing the Frog make David feel? (p.12)

Like he was seeing Owen all over again.

6. What did Owen care more about than how the boat looked? (p.12)

How it sailed.

7. What is reefing? (p.12) A way to reduce the area of the sail.

8. What word did David think of when he looked at uncle’s box of ashes? (p.13)

life

9. What was luffing? (p.13)

The slapping of sails.

10. Why did David sail out at night? (p.15)

It was Owen’s favorite time to sail.

Chapter 3

1. What happened when he pulled the sail in until it filled? The Frog almost instantly moved forward.

2. What did Owen teach David about getting the boat out of the dock? He taught him to use the sail instead of the motor.

3. Upon leaving dock, what did David have to navigate around? Retaining walls.

4. What was the difference between the harbor waters and the open Pacific? The harbor waters were calm like a lake and the Pacific was rough.

5. What made the ocean swells? The mixing of currents from various storms

6. Why had David never seen the storm swells before? Owen was always careful to check the weather before sailing and he had never taken David out in large storm swells.

7. What was the land speed equivalent to 7 knots? 9 mph

8. What was David vaguely unsettled about? He hadn’t checked the weather

9. What did David follow into the night? A reddish, golden beam across the sea.

Chapter 4

1. What was the light that appeared at about 2:00 AM?

Microscopic organisms that were phosphorescent.

2. What did Owen tell David he wanted to do?

Study all things he didn’t know.

3. What things were discovered in the short stretch of beach where David lived?

Four kinds of oysters and a type of octopus

4. Why did David dismiss the little things that could have bothered him?

Because he planned to just go out and come back.

5. What animal did David see in the blue light?

A dolphin

6. Why did David decide that he wasn’t yet far enough from land?

He could still see flickering light from land

7. What was intimidating about heading out into the open sea?

He had never been there before

Chapter 5

1. Why were David’s arms and shoulders sore?

From pulling against the wooden tiller handle.

2. What did the Frog seem to turn into when it was at a standstill?

A fat pig

3. What was the thing that David knew he had to do but didn’t want to?

Dump Owens’s ashes into the sea.

4. Why didn’t David want to dump Owens’s ashes into the sea?

Because it was so final

5. Why did David become angry with the box?

Because all of Owen could fit in it.

6. What did David see as he peered over the bow?

Strange swells

7. What was strange about them?

They seemed flat on top

8. What was affecting the swells?

Wind

9. How did the caught thread in the nylon end up saving him?

Because of having to put down the sails, they weren’t up, thus keeping the boat from being pushed over.

10. What did David have only seconds to prepare for?

The storm

11. What kept David from being thrown from the boat?

He tangled in the safety lifeline.

12. What struck David in the head?

The spruce boom

Chapter 6

1. How did the blow to the head affect David?

He couldn’t think or make his thought patterns begin to work.

2. Where did the pain spread to?

His shoulder and left arm, down into his wrist.

3. What was the “white cloud?”

The main sail

4. When David started getting back his senses, what did he realize that was not good?

The boat was taking on water.

5. What did David have to do to stop the water?

Close the hatch to the cabin.

6. What was the horrid sensation David experienced?

His shoulder popping

7. What is meant on page 42 when it says “time seems to telescope?”

It seemed to move slower than it should have.

8. Where were the faint sobbing sounds that David heard coming from?

Him self

9. What did David think he heard before “going out” again?

Animal sounds

10. What did the silence and warmth make David think?

That he was dead.

11. What did David believe happened that made everything such a mess?

The boat flipped upside down.

12. What did David have to do in small stages?

Stand up.

13. What did David find when he felt his head?

Caked blood and a raised ridge

14. What did he realize when he got up on deck?

That he was thirsty and hungry, the boat was still near to sinking, he didn’t know how long the storm lasted or even what day it was.

Chapter 7:

1. What was he hoping for as he was trying not to panic?

A helicopter or a boat.

2. About how far did he think he may have moved?

315 miles.

3. What was the first thing he decided upon doing?

Getting a drink.

4. Why was David concerned about drinking sea water?

He had read about people drinking sea water and going insane and dying horrible deaths.

5. What did “one hand for the sailor, one hand for the ship” mean?

That the sailor should let go with one hand and overcome his fear.

6. How did he start to get the water out of the boat?

He used the pump found in the stern compartment.

7. About how many times did he guess he would have to pump to get the water out?

3,200.

Chapter 8:

1. About how long did it actually take him to pump the water out?

4 ½ hours.

2. What did David feel he had to do that he didn’t have the energy to do?

Stow the sails.

3. What was unusual about the evening as he was trying to fix the sails?

It was extremely calm with no breeze.

4. What was the first thing David ate?

Ravioli.

5. What did he realize as he was eating?

6. What two things happened to his thinking while he was eating?

He was angry and he loved food.

7. What was it that scraping and bumping the boat?

A shark.

8. How did he discover it was a shark?

When it jumped out of the water.

9. Why did David think that the shark was going after the boat?

Because it was shimmering in the moonlight like fish do when they roll over when they are wounded.

Chapter 9:

1. How did he know his arm was getting a little better?

He could lift it higher than the day before.

2. Why did he retrieve a bucket of seawater?

To bathe.

3. What did he notice as he was bathing?

Various cuts and bruises all over his body.

4. What did he remember that the British used to do to punish people?

Whip them with a cat-o’-nine tails.

5. What made him worry even more about food?

There was no wind to move the boat.

6. What made him ravenously hungry and thirsty?

He kept thinking about the food and water he had but couldn’t use because he might run out.

Chapter 10:

1. What was the result of David inventorying the food? (p. 75)

There were only 7 cans of food.

2. About how much water did David think he had? (p. 76)

21 gallons

3. What did Owen always say you had to have a lot of? (p. 77)

Gear.

4. How did Owen most often use the boat? (p. 77-78)

Going up and down the coastline visiting the Californian towns.

5. What did David do to dry everything out? (p. 78)

He hung them all over to dry.

6. Why didn’t he throw out the garbage? (p. 79)

He thought it might attract sharks and thought he might be able to us it for something.

7. What caused him for the first time to feel no hunger, thirst, or fear? (p. 80)

The beauty of the sunset.

8. What was the name of the book that he unwrapped from the plastic? (p. 80)

The Voyage of the Frog.

9. What did the book tell David that the cone net was used for? (p. 81)

To catch plankton.

10. What were most of the entries in the journal? (p. 82)

Personal logs of basic sailing information.

Chapter 11:

1. What was the waterborne thunder that woke David up?

The sounds of a ship engine

2. What was the grey wall?

The side of a giant oil tanker

3. What was the problem with the tanker?

It was too close and it seemed like it was going to crush the ship.

4. What happened as the tanker passed?

The bow wave hit the Frog and almost flipped it.

5. What came to him as instinct?

He slammed the tiller away from him.

6. What happened when he slammed the tiller away from him?

It pushed the bow slightly up the wave away from wave that forced the boat down.

7. Why didn’t the people on the tanker rescue him?

They couldn’t hear or see him.

8. What did David wish he had to signal the tanker?

A flare

9. What was David only light source?

A candle

Chapter 12:

1. What things did David hate?

He hated the tanker for almost killing him, the boat pilot for not seeing him, he hate the storm, the lack of wind, Owen for dying, his parents for having him, and finally himself.

2. Why did David think the tanker should have seen him?

They have radar.

3. Why was David hating himself?

For sailing so far out, for learning to sail, and wanting to sail.

4. What did David do with the log?

He wrote a log in it.

5. What did David replace “I am hate” with?

I am alone.

6. Why did David judge it to be midday?

The sun was overhead between the horizons.

7. What did David notice about the swells?

They were a little faster, rougher

8. What did David hope the change in the swells might bring?

Wind

9. What did David put into a schedule?

A work time, a water time, a food time, and a learning time.

10. How did David plan on learning?

By studying his own thoughts

Chapter 13:

1. What was David’s daily ration for water?

½ gallon

2. What was the result of David’s first couple tries at fishing?

He caught nothing

3. What made David sick?

The stew that had been sitting in the sink all day.

4. What did David do for shade?

He made awning on from a towel

5. What else did David see that made him hope for rescue?

A jet overhead

6. What awoke David at night?

Wind

7. What direction did David try to steer to boat?

East.

8. Why did David have to carefully steer the boat?

If he turned the boat too hard it would stop.

Chapter 14:

1. What did David see in the morning light? (p. 108)

A Killer Whale

2. What did the whale do? (p. 108)

It studied him.

3. How many whales were there in all? (p. 108)

4

4. Why were the whales so intimidating? (p. 108)

Because of their size, they easily kill him (pluck him off the boat)

5. How fast did he hear that Killer whales could travel? (p. 109)

20 -30 knots

6. Why did David talk to the whales? (p. 109)

Because he thought they were talking about him.

7. What did the whales do? (p. 110)

They swam in formation with the Frog.

8. What was the Prayer he remembered seeing? (p. 110)

Lord, Your sea is so large and my boat is so small, have mercy.

9. Where did David think he might land if he kept going east? (p. 111)

Los Angeles

10. Why did David address he and the boat as “we?” (p. 113)

Because they were one on the ocean

Chapter 15:

1. In chapter 15, what awakened David?

Movement

2. What caused the resounding “thumps” on the hull?

The boat hitting waves

3. What did David compare the bumpy boat ride to?

A rollercoaster

4. Why was it difficult for David to continue “riding the waves?”

It was knocking things out of the cabinet, Knocking open drawers, almost knocking him over, etc.

5. How did the waves keep him from heading toward what he figured was Los Angeles?

The pounding waves made him change direction.

6. What direction did David have to go to settle the boat down?

Southeast

7. What danger did David sense?

He was going to strike land.

8. What did David do to avert collision with the land?

He made an emergency turn.

9. How could David tell he was not near a city?

He didn’t see any lights.

Chapter 16:

1. What did David do not to lose the land?

He brought the boat to as close to a stop as he could.

2. What was the land he found?

A desert coast with no human habitation

3. What did David imagine his parents bringing him to eat?

Two hamburgers, two malts, and fries

4. What did David do to stop and think while following his course along land that was uninhabited?

He anchored the boat so he could stop and think.

5. How long did it take for David to fall into a deep sleep?

30 seconds

Chapter 17:

1. What make David make him almost throw up?

A stink

2. How did David describe the smell?

A thick stink so putrid it was like a rotten fish odor mixed with hot breath and sticky sea water

3. What produced the smell?

The whale spout.

4. What was in his hair?

Whale snot

5. What was in the bay where he was anchored?

A pod of whales.

6. What did the whales do in the bay?

They were jumping from the water.

7. What made David sad?

The whales leaving

8. What did the swells tell David?

That there was a storm coming.

Chapter 18:

1. What was different about this storm?

He was calm and not afraid

2. What did David do to prepare for the storm?

He tied the drawers closed, he put the leaves down on the tables and tied them down, tightened the front hatch, and prepared the sail.

3. What did David do to handle the storm as far as handling the boat?

He used the storm to his benefit.

4. What did David see in the morning after the storm had passed?

A ship

5. What did one of the people on the ship say to David?

He was the boy they were searching for that they thought was dead

6. What was the captain of the freighter named?

Henry Pierce

7. What did David say when they offered to take him aboard their ship?

What about the boat?

8. Why couldn’t David leave the Frog?

He couldn’t leave her there to die alone in the ocean.

9. What did David ask the captain for?

To call his parents and for food.