

CHAPTER 2

Comprehension

1 Read Chapter 2 and match the two halves of the sentences.

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Ishmael chose | a. was eaten by a whale. |
| 2. Peleg and Bildad | b. the <i>Pequod</i> for the voyage. |
| 3. Captain Ahab's leg | c. boarded the ship on Christmas Day. |
| 4. A stranger warned the two friends | d. were the owners of the ship. |
| 5. Ishmael and Queequeg | e. that Captain Ahab was a dangerous man. |

2 Complete the summary of Chapter 2 using words or short phrases.

Queequeg suggested that Ishmael should choose (1) _____ for their trip. So, Ishmael went to the harbour and after some searching he decided that (2) _____ was suitable for them. He talked to one of the (3) _____ of the ship, Peleg, who warned him against the dangers of a whaling trip. Peleg also informed him that Captain Ahab had (4) _____ to a whale. However, Ishmael was still (5) _____ to join the crew. The next day Queequeg and Ishmael went to the ship and signed the relevant papers. As they were leaving, they (6) _____ a strange man. He told them that Captain Ahab was a (7) _____ and (8) _____ person. Despite the warnings, the two friends boarded the ship on Christmas Day.

Vocabulary

3 Find the words or phrases in Chapter 2 which mean the same as:

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|---|-------------------|
| 1. white bone that comes from an elephant's tusks | i _____ (page 12) |
| 2. angry and violent | f _____ (page 12) |
| 3. the people who work on a ship | c _____ (page 14) |
| 4. very willing to do sth | e _____ (page 14) |
| 5. make sth sound very important | e _____ (page 14) |
| 6. to begin a journey | s _____ (page 18) |

4 Complete the following sentences using the words in the box.

- | | | | | | |
|------|----------|--------|-----------|-----|----------|
| deck | ran into | polish | negotiate | fog | supplies |
|------|----------|--------|-----------|-----|----------|
- Yesterday I _____ an old classmate of mine. He hadn't changed at all!
 - The _____ in our area makes driving conditions really dangerous.
 - Did you _____ your shoes?
 - Before we leave on our camping trip, we need to buy all the necessary _____.
 - They tried to _____ the price but the salesman insisted that the car cost €15,000.
 - He went up to the _____ to enjoy the view of the islands at sunset.

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

- Do you think a person should trust his/her instincts in order to make decisions?
- A man warned Ishmael and Queequeg that Captain Ahab was obsessed with the whale that took his leg. What do you think that means? Why does the man say that Ahab's obsession has driven him mad?
- Ishmael was not discouraged by Peleg's warnings against whaling. If you were in his position would you give it a second thought? Do you believe it is worth taking risks in life?
- Do you think that the strange man and his warnings can be seen as a sign for the *Pequod's* voyage?
- Ishmael saw five dark figures on the deck. Who do you think these people were? Could they be dangerous?

6 Imagine that you are Peleg and you need to tell Bildad about Ishmael. How would you describe him? (120-140 words)