



**CLASS IX**  
**ENGLISH COURSE BOOK**  
**UNIT II - MYSTERY**  
**LESSON A - FICTION THAT CAME TRUE**

**SOLUTION**

**(A) Answer the following questions a sentence each:**

**A. Why did the Titan not reach her destination?**

**Ans:** The Titan did not reach her destination because her hull was ripped open by an iceberg and she sank with a heavy loss of life.

**B. In Robertson's novel why was the loss of life so fearful?**

**Ans:** In Robertson's novel the loss of life was so fearful because the grandest liner did not have enough lifeboats.

**C. What was uncanny about W.T. Stead's short story?**

**Ans:** W.T. Stead's short story which was published in 1892 was uncanny because it proved to be a mysterious or strange preview of the Titan disaster and he himself lost his life when the Titanic sank.

**D. What is the name of the horror novel written by Robertson?**

**Ans:** The name of the horror novel written by Robertson was *Futility*.

**E. What was the sea like when the Titanic hit the iceberg?**

**Ans:** When the Titanic hit the iceberg, the sea was calm.

**F. When was William Reeves born?**

**Ans:** William Reeves was born on the night of April 14/ 15, 1912, the day the Titanic sank.



**(B) Answer the following questions briefly:**

**A. Why was the Titan called a Floating Palace?**

**Ans:** The Titan was called a Floating Palace because it was the biggest and grandest liner ever built and it also provided immense luxury to its passengers.

**B. The book Robertson wrote was titled *Futility*. Write the significance of the title.**

**Ans:** Robertson titled his novel *Futility* which means uselessness, pointlessness or vanity. The Titan being the biggest and grandest liner and also because of the various luxurious amenities provided by it, attracted rich passengers but it was humbled by an iceberg and sank with a heavy loss of life as it did not have enough lifeboats. Thus, the title is significant as it aptly sums up the luxury liner and its tragic fate.

**C. ‘But the strange coincidences do not end there.’**

**What further coincidences does the writer talk of?**

**Ans:** The Titanic was a near duplicate of Robertson’s Titan in many ways and it was a strange coincidence. But it does not end there. The writer also talks of the famous journalist W.T. Stead’s short story published in 1892. It proved to be an uncanny preview of the Titan disaster. Stead was a spiritualist and unfortunately, he lost his life when the Titanic sank.

**D. What disturbed Reeves’ mind as he was standing watch?**

**Ans:** As he was standing watch late in the night, Reeves, the young seaman knew it was around that time that the Titanic had hit the iceberg. Coincidentally, the sea was calm like then. It also happened to be night of April 14/ 15, the exact date the Titanic went down. These eerie coincidences terrified him and served as omens and there was a mounting sense of doom in his mind.



মিণিপুৰৰ শ্বৰে নক্সাৰণ (স)

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)**

Government of Manipur

**E. Had Reeves shouted an alarm; how might he have been ridiculed by his shipmates?**

**Ans:** Had Reeves shouted an alarm; he might have been ridiculed by his shipmates for shouting out a danger warning or alarm when there was no sign of danger at all.

**F. What finally prompted Reeves to shout the warning?**

**Ans:** Reeves was prompted to shout out the danger warning when he suddenly remembered that the night had the exact date as the fateful night (night of 14/ 15 April, 1912) when the Titanic hit an iceberg in a calm sea and sank.

\*\*\*\*\*



মিণিপুৰৰ শ্বৰে নক্সাৰণ (স)

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)**  
Government of Manipur