

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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Session: 2026-2027 Notes

Class : XI

Subject : English

Chapter- We're not Afraid to

Die...

Answer the following questions

Q1. Where did the narrator want to go? Why?

Ans: The narrator and his family loved adventures. The narrator wanted to duplicate the 'round-the-world' voyage made by the famous explorer Captain James Cook 200 years ago. So, he set sail in Wavewalker, a boat specially designed and made for the purpose. Perhaps the dangers and adventure involved in the voyage and their desire to accomplish something unique beckoned them to undertake the journey.

Q2. How was the weather on the morning of 2nd January?

Ans: On New Year's Day, the weather was no improvement and was bad. On 2nd January, it got even worse. The waves were gigantic. They were sailing with only a small storm jib but still were going pretty fast. As the ship rose to the top of each wave they could see the endless, enormous sea rolling towards them. The wind seemed to be howling.

Q3. What was the result of the 'tremendous explosion'?

Ans: The gigantic wave hit the boat and a tremendous explosion shook the deck. A torrent of green and white water broke over the ship. The narrator's head smashed against the wheel and he was flung overboard. He was almost dead and the whole ship was reduced to a wreck. Others were also hurt in the process. Then the frantic efforts to save the boat and everybody's life began.

Q4. How and when did Wavewalker ride out the storm? How did the narrator feel at that time?

Ans: The Wavewalker rode out the storm on the morning of January 6 when the wind eased. He was able to calculate the boat's position using the sextant and accordingly he asked Larry to steer the boat towards Ile Amsterdam, as he was very tired. The narrator felt that they had to survive, seeing the optimism of his two children. But he was still having doubts about it and so felt heavy-hearted. But his calculations proved correct and they reached Ile Amsterdam by evening.

Q5. Why did Jonathan call the narrator, the best daddy and best captain in the world?

Ans: Jonathan called the narrator the best daddy and the best captain in the world because they had reached the island Ile Amsterdam. His son was expressing his relief and gratitude towards his father due to the narrator's devotion to save them all from death as well as his seafaring skills.

He was the "best daddy" because his devotion to them helped them survive the storm with his efforts to keep the boat afloat. He was the "best captain" because he had correctly enabled them to steer to the island so that they survived.

Q6. What difference did you notice between the reaction of the children and the adults when faced with danger?

Ans: There was not much difference between the reaction of the children and the adults when faced with danger. However, it was not on the expected lines, as the children were only 6 and 7 years old. When the adults faced the danger, they were anxious and found ways of battling it. Later, when the motion of the boat brought more and more water in, both Mary and the narrator sat holding hands as they felt the end was very near. On the other hand, the children showed great courage and did not get lose hope. When Sue hurt herself, she did not worry others about her injury. When the narrator went in to comfort them, Jon said that they weren't afraid to die if they could all be together. Sue also gave a card to the narrator that she made with the message of hope. Thus, the children showed greater positivity than their parents. Hence, we can say that the children were more optimistic than the adults.