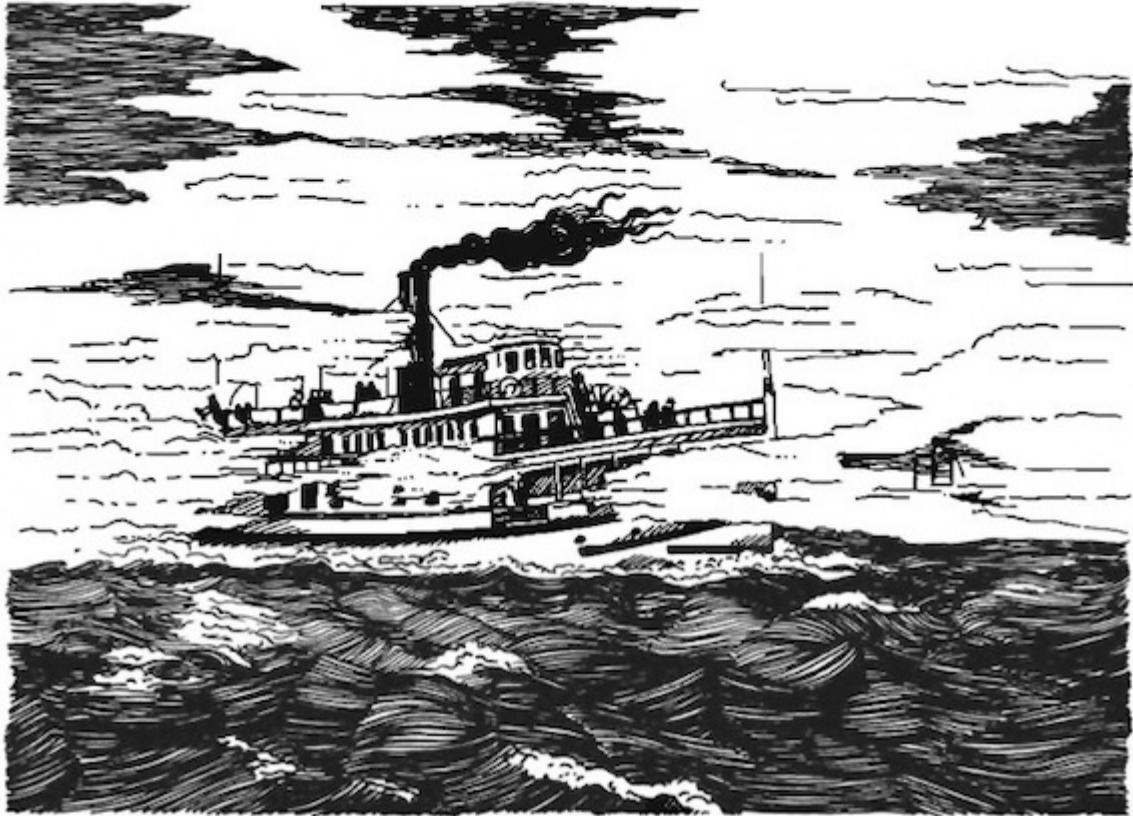


Out of the Fog



It was not a good day for a sea journey.

- Preview:**
1. Read the name of the story.
 2. Look at the picture.
 3. Read the sentence under the picture.
 4. Read the first two paragraphs of the story.
 5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that Humphrey van Weyden

- a. was on his way to work.
- b. was on his way home.
- c. did not like the sea.
- d. did not like the fog.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read to find out what happens to Humphrey at sea.

Out of the Fog

Humphrey van Weyden was going home. He was a passenger on a ship, the *Martinez*.

Fog had rolled in, so it was not a good day for a sea journey. Humphrey stood on the deck and looked at the fog. He could not see the sky or the sea. Everything, everywhere, was gray.

Another passenger walked out onto the deck and stopped to talk to Humphrey.

He said, "There's danger out there. There are too many ships about. We can't see them and they can't see us. Listen — do you hear them?"

Humphrey listened. He could hear bells that sounded faint and far away. Others sounded close. There were whistles, too. Some were loud, some soft. Behind him, he could hear the *Martinez's* whistle blowing loudly.

"Those bells and whistles are telling us where other ships are," said the man.

One far-off whistle became louder. The *Martinez* slowed. A few minutes passed. The whistle became still louder. The men could hear the other ship pass to one side. The whistle grew faint again. At last, they heard it no more.

"Hello! I hear a ship coming up fast!" the other

passenger said. He looked up at the pilot-house, where the captain stood. Humphrey turned around, too. The captain was white-faced. He looked frightened. He looked as if he were trying to see through the fog.

Suddenly, the fog seemed to part. A ship was in front of them. It was heading right for the *Martinez*!

"Hold on!" shouted the other passenger. Humphrey didn't have any time to think. He held on.

There was a loud noise as the ship hit the *Martinez*. People began shouting and crying.

Humphrey hurried to get his life preserver. People were running and pushing. They were racing about wildly and no one seemed to know what to do.

Men worked to put the life boats down. Some of the boats could not be put down into the sea. One boat, with children and women in it, seemed to be all right at first. Then it filled with water and turned over.

Humphrey was afraid. He could not swim. What should he do?

He ran down the steps to a lower deck. There, people were jumping into the water.

He heard a cry behind him.

"The ship is going down! Jump! Swim for your lives!"

He jumped. The water was cold — so cold! The life preserver held him up. He could do nothing to help himself. He heard other passengers crying out. People from both ships were all around him in the water. He could not see them. He could only hear them.

As time passed, the fog closed in around him, and the cries for help grew fainter until there were no more. What had happened to all the other passengers? Would his journey end out here, alone in these cold waters?

Humphrey remembered all the bells and whistles he had heard. There were many ships close by. Surely, one would come and rescue him.

Suddenly, Humphrey spotted a ship coming slowly out of the fog. It came closer and closer. He reached out for it and then he looked up. He could see a man standing at the wheel. The man looked down and saw him in the water.

Humphrey heard shouts from above and a small boat was dropped into the water. They were coming to rescue him!

Out of the Fog

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Choose the best answer.

1. When the fog rolled in, the *Martinez*
 - a. sounded its whistle.
 - b. slowed down.
 - c. came to a stop.
 - d. was in danger.
2. There was danger because
 - a. it was getting dark.
 - b. passing ships could not see one another.
 - c. passing ships could not hear one another.
 - d. ships' whistles would not work in the fog.
3. In order to stay clear of passing ships, the captain had to depend on his
 - a. sense of direction.
 - b. sense of smell.
 - c. sense of hearing.
 - d. passengers.
4. When the ship hit the *Martinez*, Humphrey hurried to get his
 - a. clothes.
 - b. money.
 - c. life preserver.
 - d. mother.
5. As the *Martinez* began to sink, some passengers were put into life boats, while others
 - a. jumped into the sea.
 - b. took swimming lessons.
 - c. slept.
 - d. laughed.
6. Humphrey
 - a. was a good swimmer.
 - b. did not know how to swim.
 - c. was afraid of everything.
 - d. was not afraid to drown.
7. Humphrey found the water to be
 - a. very pleasant.
 - b. very clean.
 - c. very warm.
 - d. very cold.
8. Humphrey was very sure that
 - a. he was having a bad dream.
 - b. he would drown.
 - c. he would be rescued.
 - d. he would be run over by a passing ship.
9. Another name for this story could be
 - a. "Trouble at Sea."
 - b. "Bells and Whistles."
 - c. "Humphrey's Lonely Days at Sea."
 - d. "Learning to Swim."
10. This story is mainly about
 - a. how life preservers can save lives.
 - b. how important it is to learn how to swim.
 - c. Humphrey's journey at sea.
 - d. Humphrey's rescue.

Preview Answer:

b. was on his way home.

Check your answers with the key on page 67.

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