

The Perfect Storm

SEBASTIAN JUNGER

A Before Reading

- 1 Why is it strange to call a storm “perfect”?
- 2 Here are the names some of the main characters in this story. The letters of the names are in the wrong order. Look at *The People in This Story* on page 10 and decide who these people are.

LEETH RADTSHOF YILBL NEYT CRHSI ERCTOT ADLNI LEWEGNRA

B While Reading

- 3 Read Chapter 1. What do you learn about these people?

Name	Appearance	Character	Job	Family
Ethel Shatford				
Bobby Shatford				
Chris Cotter				
Dale Murphy				
Michael Moran				

- 4 Make your own record of the most important events that happen in the book. Start with the day that the *Andrea Gail* left Gloucester.

Date	Event	People involved	Place/Position
September 20th			
September 27th			
October 6th			
October 12th (approx)			
October 19th (approx)			
October 24th			
October 25th			
October 26th			
October 27th			
October 28th			
October 29th			
October 30th			
November 1st			
November 4th			
November 5th			
November 6th			
November 8th			

C After Reading

- 5 “At the church service, Mary Anne Shatford and one of Bobby’s brothers read a poem about fishing.” (page 90)

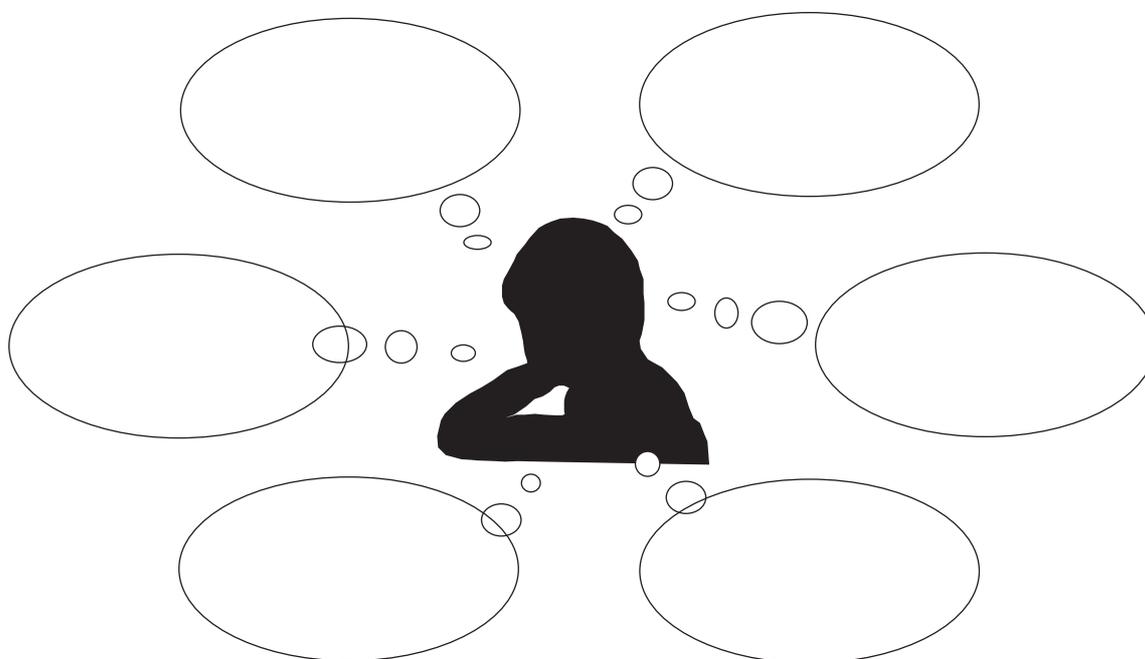
Either:

a Find a poem about fishing (in English or in your own language) which you think would be suitable for a memorial service for dead fishermen.

Or:

b Write your own poem (in English or in your own language). Use the events and descriptions in the book to help you. Write your poem so that two people—one male and one female student—could read it aloud.

- 6 On page 91 there is a picture of a person on the pier. The person is staring at the sea and thinking about Bobby Shatford’s death. Imagine that you are looking at the sea and thinking about someone who has died while fishing. Write six thoughts.



- 7 In the last chapter—“*Dreams of the Dead*”—strange events and beliefs connected to these people are described:

Debra Murphy
Dale (Murph’s son)
Chris Cotter
Murph
Adam Randall

Do you think beliefs of this kind are true? What explanation can you give for these events and beliefs?

- 8 This is a true story which shows the dangers which are found in a particular job—fishing. List some other jobs which you think could be equally dangerous, and say why you have chosen them.