

AS

Summer 2014 - P12 - 2h 15mins

2. a) In his account of the moments when the Titanic hit an iceberg, the writer adopts a narrative structure with many ~~bursts~~ ~~and~~ ~~diffuse~~ highs and lows that keeps the reader glued to the story. The overall formal register and somewhat detached tone is delivered from a third person's perspective, allowing ^{the} a reader a bird's eye-view of the situation and what different people were doing and thinking that night. The tone changes throughout the passage to reflect the unique way of each character's thinking and the highs and lows of the accounts, aiming to give the reader the experience of what it felt like to be on the Titanic the night it hit an iceberg.

From the start of the passage, the writer uses symbolism to create a sense of foreboding. For instance a 'no moon' night is perceived as one where darkness and evil reign, yet ~~the~~ the writer describes the sky to be 'blazing' with stars. The word 'blaze' instead of 'shine' or 'glitter' gives it an almost fire-like, fierce quality. ~~The fact that the~~ 'Atlantic was like polished plate glass' is a simile that compares the surface of an ocean as to that of a glass plate and creates a visual image which might make the reader wonder if a layer of ice has formed as it is said that it was 'bitterly cold'. The sense of foreboding returns when 'people later: so smooth' meaning that it was ~~was~~ unusual for the ocean to behave in this manner - almost odd.

The previous concern about the ocean's surface is confirmed as an 'ice problem' and this shows the first signs of a conflict. The 'silence as the... darkness' makes the reader wonder if they had nothing to talk about or if they were deep in thought about what might unfold, thereby highlighting the sense of premonition again. Especially when after the shift there was 'still nothing unusual' which makes the reader wonder if they had been expecting something to happen; perhaps the sense of foreboding was strong.

'Just the stars - cold' are casually listed as if to show normalcy albeit the ship 'racing across the calm, black sea' where 'racing' is associated with high speed which is in turn associated with potential accidents and danger, 'calm' almost feels like 'the calm before the storm' and 'black sea' symbolises ~~a negative~~ a premonition as the colour black is associated with being negative. ^{just the stars} has negative connotation.

Furthermore, the adverbs 'suddenly' and 'quickly' show a steep rise in tension underpinned by the gloom of seeing something 'darker than darkness' and finally a 'warning of danger ahead' is sounded. But the reaction to this warning is not action-packed as might be expected when 'acknowledged... said.' It is as if the person with the calm voice knew this was coming and his worst fears had been confirmed. The ~~fact~~ lack of instructions when 'nothing more was said' evokes a sense of hopelessness.

urge in patient health.
ball marks the rise & then all downhill

The hopelessness is strengthened by the 'towering berg' which not only makes it seem massive but also overpowering. The 'quiet' as the crewmen stood ~~side~~ now seems heavy with impending doom and different from the earlier silence. ~~The~~

The tension peaks as they 'brace themselves' but diffuses when it thought to be a 'close shave'.

The drop or lack of tension is emphasised as the focus shifts to the Quartermaster and 'the sea... cold' are repeated to show he was unaware of what lay ahead. This is also portrayed by the laid back atmosphere in the smoking-room on A deck.

Twice the iceberg is said to have 'faded into the darkness astern' which continues the suspense as the danger is not past as one cannot view the iceberg in ^{the} dark to tell its location. The last peak of tension is created when 'far more... passengers' as the 'Titanic lay dead' in the water. This is a powerful symbol and metaphor as a ship being non-living cannot literally die but ~~the words~~ saying that it did evokes a strong sense of foreboding, gloom and doom.

However, once again the writer diffuses the tension by saying that 'otherwise... normal' and giving an example of an 'elderly couple... roving about' to portray the normalcy. Thereby ~~is~~ holding the reader's attention throughout this rollercoaster of highs, lows and constant suspense.

b) Strolling back into the smoking-room, Miss. Lisa Bennett brushed off the sudden halt of the Titanic with a mere 'The engine must be feeling cold too' and settled back into the plush velvet ~~at~~ armchairs, her fingers reaching for another cigarette. With a smoky puff she exhaled any worries she might have been bothered by as she had rushed outside with the others. She closed her eyes and relaxed, after all she was on the maiden voyage of a ship that was proudly ~~was~~ called 'The Unsinkable'. She could not wait to see John in New York... the ship groaned and shuddered. Her eyes flew open, staring at the wall clock. It froze. Their time had come to an end.