

TEST NAME: **Hybrid CCSS 1-4**
TEST ID: **896596**
GRADE: **09 - Ninth Grade**
SUBJECT: **English Language and Literature**
TEST CATEGORY: **School Assessment**

Student: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

Read the passage - 'A Man Overboard' - and answer the question below:

A Man Overboard

A Man Overboard

by Captain Basil Hall

Sailors are men of rough habits, but their feelings are not by any means so coarse: if they possess little prudence or worldly consideration, they are likewise very free from selfishness; generally speaking, too, they are much attached to one another, and will make great sacrifices to their messmates or shipmates when opportunities occur.

I remember once, when cruising off Terceira in the *Endymion*, that a man fell overboard and was drowned. After the usual confusion, and long search in vain, the boats were hoisted up, and the hands called to make sail. I was officer of the fore-castle¹ and on looking about to see if all the men were at their station, missed one of the fore-top men. Just at that moment I observed someone curled up, and apparently hiding himself under the bow of the barge, between the boat and the booms.² "Hello!" I said, "Who are you? What are you doing there, you skulker?"³ Why are you not at your station?"

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"I am not skulking," said the poor fellow, the furrows in whose bronzed and weather-beaten cheek were running down with tears. The man we had just lost had been his messmate and friend, he told me, for ten years. I begged his pardon, in full sincerity, for having used such harsh words to him at such a moment, and bid him go below to his berth for the rest of the day—"Never mind, sir, never mind," said the kindhearted seaman. "It can't be helped. You meant no harm, sir. I am as well on deck as below. Bill's gone sir, but I must do my duty." So saying, he drew the sleeve of his jacket twice or thrice across his eyes, and mustering⁴ his grief within his chest, walked to his station as if nothing had happened.

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In the same ship and nearly about the same time, the people were bathing along side in a calm at sea. It is customary on such occasions to spread a studding-sail⁵ on the water, by means of lines from the fore and main yard arms, for the use of those who either cannot swim, or who are not expert in this art, so very important to all seafaring people. Half a dozen of the ship's boys were floundering about in the sails, and sometimes even venturing beyond the leech rope. One of the least of these urchins, but not the least courageous of their number, when taunted by his more skillful companions with being afraid, struck out boldly beyond the prescribed bounds. He had not gone much further than his own length, however, along the surface of the fathomless sea, when his heart failed him, poor little man; and along with his confidence away also went his power of keeping his head above the water. So down he sank rapidly, to the speechless horror of the other boys, who of course, could lend the struggling child no help.

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The captain of the fore-castle, a tall, fine-looking, hard-a-weather fellow, was standing on the shank of the sheet

anchor with his arms across, and his well varnished canvass hat drawn so much over his eyes that it was difficult to tell whether he was awake or merely dozing in the sun, as he leaned his back against the fore-topmast backstay.⁶ The seaman, however, had been attentively watching the young party all the time, and rather fearing that mischief might ensue from their rashness, he had grunted out a warning to them from time to time, to which they paid no sort of attention. At last he desisted, saying they might drown themselves if they had a mind, for never a bit would he help them; but no sooner did the sinking figure of the adventurous little boy catch his eye, than, diver fashion, he joined the palms of his hands over his head, inverted his position in one instant, and urging himself into swifter motion by a smart push with his feet against the anchor, shot head foremost into the water. The poor lad sunk so rapidly that he was at least a couple of fathoms under the surface before he was arrested by the grip of the sailor, who soon rose again, bearing the bewildered boy in his hand, and calling to the other youngsters to take better care of their companion, chucked him right into the belly of the sail. The fore-sheet was hanging in the calm, nearly into the water, and by it the dripping seaman scrambled up again to his old berth on the anchor, shook himself like a great Newfoundland dog, and then jumping on the deck, proceeded across the fore-castle to shift himself.

At the top of the ladder he was stopped by the marine officer, who had witnessed the whole transaction, as he sat across the gangway hammocks, watching the swimmers, and trying to get his own consent to undergo the labor of undressing. Said the soldier to the sailor, "That was very well done of you, my man, and right well deserves a glass of pirate drink. Say so to the gun-room steward as you pass; and tell him it is my orders to fill your glass." The soldier's offer was kindly meant, but rather clumsily timed, at least so thought Jack: for though he inclined his head in acknowledgment of the attention, and instinctively touched his hat when spoken to by an officer, he made no reply until out of the marine's hearing, when he laughed, or rather chuckled out to the people near him, "Does the good gentleman suppose I'll take a glass of drink for saving a boy's life?"

¹**fore-castle:** section of the vessel where the crew sleeps and where supplies and machines are stored

²**booms:** a type of sail

³**skulker:** someone who avoids responsibilities

⁴**mustering:** gathering up; getting hold of

⁵**studding-sail:** a small sail set at the side of the main sail to increase speed

⁶**fore-topmast backstay:** lines used to support the mast

Thrilling Narratives of Mutiny . . . Piracy: "A Man Overboard" by Captain Basil Hall. *Project Gutenberg*, 2009.
http://www.gutenberg.org/files/25982/25982-h/25982-h.htm#Man_Overboard (04/11/2013).

1. How does the narrator's use of "poor fellow" in paragraph 3 impact the tone of the selection?
 - A. It provides a sympathetic tone.
 - B. It shows a respectful tone.
 - C. It implies a mocking tone.
 - D. It gives a mournful tone.

Read the passage - 'A Man Overboard' - and answer the question below:

2. Which statement describes how the author unfolds ideas about sailors being compassionate?
- A. The author works backwards, proving his point first and then showing how he got there.
 - B. The author describes how sailors are a caring people, then provides examples to support his ideas.
 - C. The author develops a story and builds to a main conflict to prove his point at the end of the selection.
 - D. The author gives examples of sailors doing good deeds, and then concludes that they are a caring people.
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Read the passage - 'A Man Overboard' - and answer the question below:

3. How does the phrase "were running down with tears" in paragraph 3 impact the meaning?
- A. The words reveal how sailors are focused intently on their work.
 - B. The words reveal how sailors are actually a caring group of people.
 - C. The words describe the sailors as being a somewhat selfish group of people.
 - D. The words describe how the harsh lives of sailors can limit their ability to be emotional.
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Read the passage - 'A Man Overboard' - and answer the question below:

4. How does the use of the words *rough* and *coarse* in the first paragraph impact the meaning of the selection?
- A. by showing how sailors truly act with others
 - B. by describing the tough life at sea that sailors face
 - C. by providing examples of words commonly associated with sailors
 - D. by giving an example of what the author seeks to disprove about sailors
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Read the passage - 'A Man Overboard' - and answer the question below:

5. In paragraph 4, how do the words *floundering* and *urchins* impact the tone of the selection?
- A. They emphasize the lack of experience of the young boys.
 - B. They describe the helplessness the young boys feel.
 - C. They create a sense of pity for the young boys.
 - D. They focus on the courage of the young boys.
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Read the passage - 'A Man Overboard' - and answer the question below:

6. How does the description of sailors in the first paragraph develop the perception of sailors later in the selection?
- A. It provides a general background of what sailors do on a ship.
 - B. It provides details about how sailors are capable of heroic deeds.
 - C. It introduces the commonly known fact that sailors are kind-hearted, caring people.
 - D. It introduces the idea that contrary to common belief, sailors care about one another.
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Read the passage - 'A Man Overboard' - and answer the question below:

7. How does the author connect the urchin's near drowning in paragraphs 4 and 5 to the description of sailors in the first paragraph?
- A. by having the urchins act carelessly in the presence of sailors
 - B. by showing a sailor's concerns and immediate rescue response
 - C. by contrasting an urchin's swimming ability with a sailor's skills
 - D. by describing a sailor looking nearly asleep during his watch over the boys
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Read the passage - 'A Man Overboard' - and answer the question below:

8. In the last paragraph, how does the sailor's response to the captain's offer of a pirate drink develop the author's portrayal of sailors?
- A. It contrasts the crude marine officer to the caring sailor.
 - B. It proves sailors only care about others when they can look like heroes in front of officers.
 - C. It shows sailors feel that saving a boy from drowning is a duty instead of a heroic deed deserving a reward.
 - D. It shows sailors are unconcerned what others, including high ranking officers, think about them and their deeds.