CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Captains Courageous

Rudyard Kipling · *1897 · original English text*

The weather door of the smoking-room had been left open to the North Atlantic fog, as the big liner rolled and lifted, whistling to warn the fishing-fleet. Captains Courageous is Kipling's complete story of the Grand Banks, in which a spoiled boy is made into a worker among fishermen.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What can a season among working men make of a boy who has never had to work, and how should a Grand Banks story be read when its sea is a place of labor, not of romance only?

"The weather door of the smoking-room had been left open to the North Atlantic fog, as the big liner rolled and lifted, whistling to warn the fishing-fleet."

Chapter I, the opening

The hosted text is "Captains Courageous": A Story of the Grand Banks (1897, PG #2186), complete as Kipling's novel. The opening is exact, including "weather door" and "fishing-fleet." Harvey Cheyne is washed from a liner into a Gloucester schooner's work. A complete sea novel for a wide middle and older band. Kipling's imperial and racial attitudes appear in places; teach the problem, and do not put slurs on the map. Quote this typography, including the title's quotation marks if the file uses them, and the wording "Captains Courageous" as printed.

KEY CHARACTERS

Harvey Cheyne
The spoiled boy of the liner, called a nuisance in the first cabin talk, who will be made a worker.

Disko Troop, and the men of the We're Here
The captain and the crew whose labor on the Banks is the book's school.

Dan Troop
The captain's son, a companion in the work.

Harvey's father
The rich man who must meet the boy the schooner has made.

A LINER IN THE FOG

> *"The weather door of the smoking-room had been left open to the North Atlantic fog, as the big liner rolled and lifted, whistling to warn the fishing-fleet."*
>
> Chapter I

Grades 6–8

Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

A Liner in the Fog

CHAPTER I, THE OPENING

The weather door of the smoking-room had been left open to the North Atlantic fog, as the big liner rolled and lifted, whistling to warn the fishing-fleet. The book begins in a privileged cabin, with a boy already called a nuisance.

- The first sentence is exact in both witnesses.
- Harvey's fall from the liner is the hinge of the first chapter.
- A wide middle and older band can enter here.

> *"The weather door of the smoking-room had been left open to the North Atlantic fog, as the big liner rolled and lifted, whistling to warn the fishing-fleet."*
>
> Chapter I

02

A Schooner's Work

THE MIDDLE OF THE BOOK

Disko Troop's We're Here, and the men of the Grand Banks, make a worker of the boy. The sea here is labor: dories, fish, fog, and a code of the schooner.

- Map the work of the Banks, not a mere adventure holiday.
- The title is a story of the Grand Banks, as the subtitle says.
- Teach any imperial or racial attitudes as a problem; do not put slurs on the map.

03

A Father, and a Return

THE LATER CHAPTERS

The later book brings the boy back toward the world he had left, and toward a father who must meet the worker he has become. The close belongs to this complete novel.

- Do not flatten the close into a mere moral tag.
- Keep the Gloucester men in view to the end.
- Cite this typography.

04

A Complete Grand Banks Novel

THE HOSTED FILE

PG #2186 and the site EPUB are this complete 1897 book. Quote stretches that appear in both.

- Complete Captains Courageous.
- For a wide middle and older band.
- Kipling's attitudes: teach the problem; no slurs on the map.

Labor at Sea | A Boy Made a Worker | Fog and the Banks | A Father's Meeting | A Code of the Schooner

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 6–8

1. The hosted text is "Captains Courageous": A Story of the Grand Banks (1897, Project Gutenberg #2186), complete as Kipling's novel. The opening is exact: "The weather door of the smoking-room had been left open to the North Atlantic fog, as the big liner rolled and lifted, whistling to warn the fishing-fleet."
2. A complete sea novel for a wide middle and older band. Kipling's imperial and racial attitudes appear in places; teach the problem, and do not put slurs on the map.
3. Quote stretches that appear in both the Gutenberg text and the site EPUB.

Quotations are verbatim from the original English text, Project Gutenberg #2186, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/captains-courageous/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.