

Captain Amanda

by Nancy Sladky



- 1 "Dad, tell me about that picture," said Amanda as she pointed to a painting of a ship sailing in a storm.
- 2 "The painting is called The English Galleon," Amanda's father explained. "Galleons sailed the seas in the mid-1500s and 1600s. They were very large and had what was called a forecastle in the front. This is where the living quarters were. The quarters were often quite fancy. Galleons were used as both warships and cargo ships. What do you think, Amanda? Would you like to take a ride on a ship like that?"
- 3 Amanda smiled. She was already imagining what it would be like to be aboard an English galleon.
- 4 The wind filled the sails as the proud galleon glided through the waters toward home. A cargo of jewels, spices, and silks from the Far East filled the hold. The crew was a tough lot. Of course, you had to be tough to sail in these seas, and Amanda was as tough as they came.
- 5 A new captain was commanding the ship on their return voyage. Captain Smith looked fierce as he approached his crew. But just then, the ship unexpectedly jerked, and Captain Smith fell flat on his face. Amanda held back a giggle. She wasn't sure what punishment for giggling at a captain was, but she didn't want to find out. The captain stood up, wiped himself off, and tried to look "captainly." The crew was a bit unsure what to think of their new leader. "Good morning," he shouted. "Has anyone seen the maps? I fear I might have misplaced them." Just then, a huge wave swept over the ship's side and drenched the captain. He stood there soaking wet as his crew roared with laughter.
- 6 Oh, no, thought Amanda. *With a captain like this, we'll never get home. These sailors won't listen to a thing he says, and without the maps, we're sure to get lost. Maybe I can help somehow.*

- 7 She followed Captain Smith to his living quarters. The door was open, so Amanda stood and watched. The captain seemed to be searching for something. After a moment, he noticed Amanda.
- 8 "Yes, what do you want?" Captain Smith asked gruffly. "Can't you see that I'm busy?"
- 9 "Captain, my name is Amanda McNeil. I'm an experienced sailor, and I'm here to help," Amanda announced.
- 10 The captain looked at Amanda for a moment and then said, "I guess you could say I need a little help. I seem to have lost the maps."
- 11 Amanda and the captain searched the entire cabin. The maps were nowhere to be found. The captain sat down, ready to give up. "It's no use," he cried, shaking his head. "We may end up in Africa or Spain or who knows where unless we find those maps!"
- 12 "You can't give up. Let's look again," said Amanda. They began the search once more. Suddenly, another strong wave slapped against the ship. The captain lost his balance, fell, and bumped into the desk. "I'm just not used to this sailing thing," he said, sitting on the floor rubbing his head.
- 13 Amanda looked at Captain Smith and thought he would probably *never* get used to sailing. Then, she spotted the maps, peeking out from one of the desk drawers.
- 14 Amanda pointed to the open drawer. "Captain, there are the lost maps."
- 15 "Wonderful!" he shouted, jumping up. Just then, the ship tipped sharply to the left, sending Captain Smith tumbling. "Amanda, could you help me with just one more *little* thing?" he asked, rubbing his knee. "Would you take over as captain? I don't think I'm right for the job."
- 16 "Hmm, Captain Amanda McNeil," Amanda said to herself. She liked the sound of that.

COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a*, *b*, or *c*.

- 1 This story is mainly about a girl who
 - a** sails on a galleon and helps the captain.
 - b** imagines herself sailing on a galleon.
 - c** learns about galleons from her father.
- 2 Amanda thinks the crew won't listen to Captain Smith because the crew
 - a** doesn't know much about sailing.
 - b** would rather have Amanda as their captain.
 - c** doesn't think he acts much like a captain.

- 3 The captain would probably not have found the maps if he hadn't
 - a** bumped into the desk.
 - b** sat down.
 - c** talked to his crew.
- 4 Amanda didn't think Captain Smith would ever get used to sailing because he
 - a** had never sailed before.
 - b** kept falling when the boat rocked.
 - c** told her he didn't like to sail.
- 5 Amanda imagined that she would be a good captain because
 - a** she was an experienced sailor.
 - b** she took charge of the situation.
 - c** Both **a** and **b**

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 a place to sleep or live (2)
- 2 goods carried by ship (2)
- 3 a group of people who work together on a boat (4)
- 4 a long journey on a ship (5)
- 5 with no warning (5)
- 6 put somewhere and forgot (5)
- 7 harshly; impolitely (8)

C **too** = also

two = the number after *one*

Words that sound alike but have different spellings and meanings are called homophones. *Too* and *two* are homophones.

Look at each word in **bold type** below. Note the paragraph number. Look at the paragraph and find the homophone. Which of the two words fits in the blank in the sentence? Write the word.

8 **sees** (2)

Amanda hopes that she _____ land soon.

9 **threw** (4)

The ship sailed _____ the rough waves.

10 **hear** (9)

The sailors could _____ the wind blowing.

THINK ABOUT IT

D A word that has the opposite, or nearly the opposite, meaning of another word is called an antonym. *Little* is an antonym of *big*.

Read each sentence. Which word in parentheses () is an antonym of the word in **bold type**? Write the word.

- 1 A galleon's living quarters are often very **fancy**.
(elaborate, plain)
- 2 Amanda was a **brave** sailor.
(fearless, timid)
- 3 The crew on the ship was **tough**.
(strong, weak)
- 4 Amanda **shouted** that she had found the maps.
(yelled, whispered)
- 5 Amanda had a **vivid** imagination.
(lively, dull)

E Read the sentences. Each one tells about an event in the story. Put the five events in the correct order by writing *a, b, c, d, or e*.

- 6 Amanda helps the captain look for the maps.
- 7 Amanda looks at a painting with her father.
- 8 Amanda imagines herself being the captain of the ship.
- 9 The captain falls on his face in front of the crew.
- 10 Amanda spots the maps in the desk drawer.

F sadly = sad + **ly**
sadness = sad + **ness**

The letters *-ly* and *-ness* are called suffixes. A suffix is added to the end of a word. It changes the word's meaning. Adding the suffix *-ly* to a word makes the new word tell *how*. Adding the suffix *-ness* to a word makes the new word tell *what*.

Read each sentence. Which word in parentheses () makes sense? Write the word.

- 11 The ship sailed (quickly, quickness) through the waters.
- 12 Amanda found the captain's (clumsily, clumsiness) amusing.
- 13 The captain's (gruffly, gruffness) lasted only a moment.
- 14 Amanda's (firmly, firmness) was respected by the crew.
- 15 Amanda (happily, happiness) imagined herself as captain of the galleon.