

The Wreck of the Ethie
Theme 5
4th Grade Challenge Reading

Name _____

Date _____

Before Reading

The title, cover illustration, and chapter titles give strong hints about the plot of this story, which is a fictionalized account of real events. Take turns with members of your group to devise a plot sequence that would make sense with these clues. What role do you think the dog plays in the story?



Vocabulary:

This author uses strong vivid verbs throughout. Look at the paragraph below. Rewrite the paragraph making substitutions for the ordinary verbs.

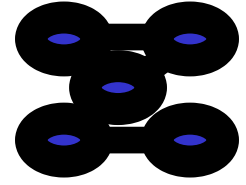
The dog saw the fisherman as he put nets into the dory and put it into the surf. The tide was still coming in. Whitecaps were on the choppy sea just off the Point, and the waves coming down the Labrador Current came ashore against the boulders offshore. Known as the Whale's Back, this line of rocks went for miles along the coast. Visible during low tide, the treacherous rocks had taken out many ships. Ice was beginning to form along the shoreline, and large chunks were in the eddies among the boulders.

Check what verbs the author used on page 1. Do you have some substitutions that are even better than the authors?

Verb	Better verb

Keep a list of vivid words and phrases used by this author. Notice how she uses parts of speech in unusual ways. For example, on page 8, she says, "Her mittened fingers loosened her tight braids."

Your spell check might say that this is misspelled, but the author has used a noun, **mitten**, and changed it into an adjective to describe Colleen's hand. The author may have thought of other words that fit this pattern, like **black and blackened**, and used this pattern to create a new descriptive word. While reading, look for these unusual words or phrases.



<i>Word or phrase</i>	<i>Page #</i>



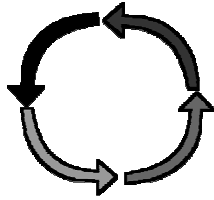
During Reading:

As you read each chapter, note from whose perspective the story is being told. In Chapter 11, the pattern the author has created changes. Why do you think this happens?

Chapter	Perspective
Martin's Point, Newfoundland	
Skipper	
The Sealer's Boot	
Before the Storm	
Port Sanders, Newfoundland	
The Ethie Departs	
Blizzard	
Martin's Point	
Skipper's Instinct	
Ship Wreck	
Skipper Battles the Sea	
Rescue	
St. John's, Newfoundland	

The change in the pattern occurs in chapter Eleven because

After Reading



Think about what some of the main characters in this story might have gone on to accomplish in their lives. Complete the table below, showing what each might have accomplished one year later and one decade later.

Character	One year later	One decade later
Colleen		
Patrick		
Skipper		
Captain Flannery		
Reginald Warren		
Mr. Reilly		

