

Comprehension Check

- Whom did the Coast Guard first attempt to rescue?  
the crew of the Satori

- How did the sailboat manage to stay afloat?

by turning to the weather, or toward the direction from which the wind is blowing

- How did Dave Moore help those in danger?

by dropping from the helicopter, swimming over to them, and dragging them into a rescue basket

1. What Do You Think?

Be sure to select passages from the selection and describe what liked or disliked about the passages.

2. What do you think are the most important elements of the story?

Make certain to focus on the story elements of character, conflict, and setting.

3. Which person in the story did you find the most interesting? Support your answer with evidence from the selection.

Responses will vary. You should choose a character and describe how Junger makes the character interesting to the you.

4. Consider how Dave Moore handled conflicts during the rescue. What personal traits do you think he displayed?

This is the first major rescue for Dave Moore, so this is the first time he has been in a difficult rescue situation. He reacts well to sudden changes, efficiently rescuing six people once they are in the water. He is cordial to the Satori crew, which may help them relax a little under the difficult circumstances.

5. Did you find the author's description of the setting clear and complete enough for you to picture the scene of the rescue? Explain your answer?

Use examples from the selection to back up their answer. Some may believe that the author switches back and forth between ship and helicopter too quickly.

6. Do you think the struggle for survival presented in this nonfiction account is more or less gripping than a fictional tale would be?

Some students may think that nonfiction is more gripping than fiction, because nonfiction describes events that happened to real people. Others may think that fiction can be just as gripping as nonfiction.

**7.** How might the story have ended if the crew members of the *Satori* had refused to jump into the water?

Dave Moore may have tried to force the crew members off the boat. The crew of the *Satori* may have died.

**8.** How would you define *courage*? To which people in this account would you apply this definition? Explain your answer.

A person with courage is able to face a difficult situation calmly and with presence of mind. Some will probably say that Dave Moore and Karen Stimpson were courageous.

**9.** Look again at the list of criteria you made for a good sea-disaster story. Based on the chart of storytelling elements you made for this excerpt from *The Perfect Storm*, how well do you think it succeeds as a sea-disaster story? Cite evidence to support your answer.

Answers will depend on how well your lists of criteria compare with your charts of storytelling elements. You might want to revise your criteria for a good sea-disaster story.