



Family Discussion Questions

If interested, these questions can help guide and enhance your reading of the book

A Night To Remember

by Walter Lord

Although you know the “outcome” of the story even before you begin the reading, do take the time to read “Facts about the Titanic” at the back of the book. And, if you are reading the 50th. Anniversary Edition, do read both the Introduction and Forward. These provide good insights and perspective.

1. Is there a conclusive “why” to the tragic sinking of the Titanic, or were there many reasons for the tragedy? What is your thinking? If you were to list the reasons for the sinking, is there one that is most remarkable? Why?
2. What, to you, was the most shocking aspect of the sinking? What was the most puzzling aspect of the sinking?
3. Some historians have proposed the thought that “hubris” was the underlying cause of the tragedy. What do you think? Is there evidence to support that theory?
4. From the descriptions in the book, what do we learn about the structure of society in 1912? Were you surprised that even as the ship was sinking, there was different treatment for different classes? (See pgs. 88-90)
5. There seemed to be a “calmness” in Walter Lord’s telling of the sinking. Do you agree? Do you think he did this intentionally and if so, why?
6. What is your response to the assorted emotions displayed by the various passengers?
7. Were there heroes in this tragedy? Who? Why?
8. Do read the “acknowledgements”. Walter Lord talks about the 63 survivors he interviewed. He said they looked “marvelous” and were “wonderfully thoughtful”. Why might that be?



Try A Titanic Family Activity

Writings:

Do a passenger letter, diary entry of a passenger or crew member, or a newspaper article before or after the Titanic sinking.

Illustrated Timeline:

Chronicle the major Titanic events from setting sail to sinking.

Geography:

Using maps, locate key places related to the Titanic from being built to sinking .

Art:

Using any medium, such as drawing, painting, collage, or sculpture, create an art piece from the Titanic.

Drama:

Act out a scene from the Titanic

Music:

Play the theme song of the Titanic on an instrument or listen to the song.

Trivia Game:

Make up trivia questions from the Titanic and play the game with teams.

*****Design Your Own Activity Related to the Titanic!*****