



Family Discussion Questions

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

The Watch That Ends the Night: Voices From the Titanic

by Allan Wolf

1. Poet, Allan Wolf, selected 25 voices to tell the story of the sinking of the Titanic and told the story in verse. In your opinion, was this unique telling an effective presentation? Why or why not?
2. The 1st. voice the reader is introduced to is “The Undertaker.” Why do you think the author did this? And “The Undertaker” reappears several times. What do you think was the author’s purpose?
3. “The Iceberg” is given a voice. What perspective does the reader gain from The Iceberg? Is The Iceberg an important voice? Why or why not? On pg. 95 The Iceberg shares observations on “man”. Do you agree with the observations as it relates to the Titanic specifically and/or mankind’s behavior in general?
4. Although presented as “fiction”, do you think the voices provide a realistic portrayal of the voyage and ultimate sinking of the Titanic? Do you feel it was a fair presentation? Did the voices “speak” as you expected them to?
5. On pg. 175 “The First Class Promenade” is given a voice. What insights does it provide?
6. On pg. 202 Frederick Fleet, the Lookout, comments on what he sees. Do you agree or disagree with his analysis/observations?
7. As you reflect on the various voices included in the story, what purpose does each voice serve in Wolf’s presentation of the tragedy? Why did he choose the voices he did?

Do make sure to look at the “notes” at the end of the book. Included is info on “the voices” and other good stuff.



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!*****