

Study Questions for The Perfect Storm

1. Since this book was published in 1991, the phrase “a perfect storm” has entered the English language (at least temporarily). What does it mean?
2. When we see Christina Cotter greet Bobby Shatford on the dock when the *Andrea Gail* returns, we know that the person who wrote the screenplay for *The Perfect Storm* read the book. What detail tells us this?
3. What threat does Bob Brown (owner of the *Andrea Gail*) make to Billy Tyne on the dock?
4. What decision does this cause Captain Tyne to make?
5. Describe the current state of the relationship between Dale Murphy and his wife. (What details help you come to this conclusion?)
6. Bobby and Christina have a fight when she discovers that he’s going right back out to sea (after only two days). What advice does Murph give Bobby at this point?
7. Christina has slipped a letter into Bobby’s seabag (a detail you’ll also find in “Chapter One”, slightly altered). What does the note tell him?
8. Who comes to say goodbye to Bugsy? What is unusual about this event (another detail lifted from “Chapter One”, although greatly altered here)?

9. When hauling in swordfish, Bobby gets a little more than he bargained for. Describe.

10. During a moment's inattention, Murph finds himself hooked through the hand and dragged overboard. Which two crew members go overboard to save him?

11. The *Andrea Gail* is finding very few swordfish on the Grand Banks. What does Billy decide to do?

12. What happens that forces the *Andrea Gail* to head in early, (and to head into the teeth of the storm)?

13. Why isn't the rescue helicopter able to come to the aid of the *Andrea Gail*?