# The Sinking of the Titanic

by James McGough, in Sinking of the Titanic and Great Sea Disasters

As the life-boats pulled away the officers ordered the bands to play, and their music did much to quell panic. It was a heartbreaking sight . . . to see the great ship go down. First she listed to the starboard, on which side the collision had occurred, then she settled slowly but steadily, without hope of remaining afloat.



- The Titanic was all aglow with lights as if for a function. First we saw the lights of the lower deck snuffed out. A while later and the second deck illumination was extinguished in a similar manner. Then the third and upper decks were darkened, and without plunging or rocking the great ship disappeared slowly from the surface of the sea. . . .
- The sea was calm—calm as the water in a tumbler. But it was freezing cold. None had dressed heavily, and all, therefore, suffered intensely. The women did not shriek or grow hysterical while we waited through the awful night for help. We men stood at the oars, stood because there was no room for us to sit, and kept the boat headed into the swell to prevent her capsizing. Another boat was at our side, but all the others were scattered around the water.
- Finally, shortly before 6 o'clock, we saw the lights of the Carpathia approaching, Gradually she picked up the survivors in the other boats and then approached us.

### Close Reader Habits

How are the two accounts of the sinking different? Reread the article and the memoir. Underline details in the memoir that give facts not told in the article.

#### Think

Use what you learned from reading the memoir and the article to answer the following questions.

- The facts in the magazine article on page 246 came from earlier news reports and articles about the event. In the memoir on page 248, where did James McGough get his facts?
  - A He read about the events in the magazine article.
  - B He heard about the events from friends on the ship.
  - C He imagined the events and wrote a story about them.
  - D He experienced the events as they happened.
- Which information did McGough give that was not in the article?
  - A The Carpathia traveled to the Titanic's location.
  - B Passengers were put into lifeboats.
  - C The lights on the Titanic went out deck by deck.
  - D The Titanic sank into the ocean.
- Which words and phrases are clues to McGough's feelings on the night that the Titanic sank? Write two clues in the box below.



A memoir is usually a firsthand account of what the writer saw. felt, thought, and did. It often uses a personal tone.

#### Talk

How are the two accounts of the Titanic the same? How are they different? Use the Venn diagram on page 251 to organize your thoughts.



Short Response Use the information in your Venn diagram to describe how the firsthand and secondhand accounts of the disaster are the same and different. Use the space provided on page 251 to write your answer.

HINT Choose a writing structure that shows similarities and differences.

## Unsinkable Titanic by Julian Green

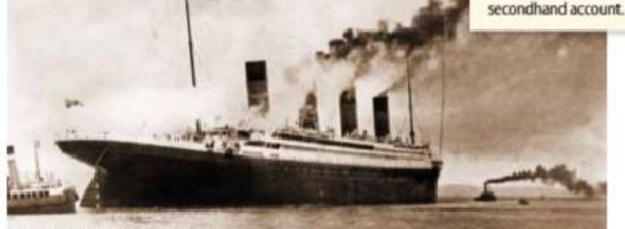
- For more than a hundred years, the story of the Titanic has fascinated people. It was the largest passenger steamship ever built, already world-famous when it was launched. One magazine proudly called it "unsinkable." But that pride would crumble on Titanic's first voyage across the Atlantic Ocean.
- There were 2,240 passengers and crew on that voyage. The ship left Southampton, England, on April 10, 1912. It was scheduled to reach New York City ten days later. But at 11:30 on the night of April 14, the Titanic hit an iceberg that tore open the ship's massive hull. As the vessel took on water, it began to sink.
- The ship's captain told his radio operator to call for help. Then he ordered the crew to lower the lifeboats. In the panic, fleeing passengers launched most of the boats with several empty seats. By 2:20 the next morning, three hours after striking the iceberg, the Titanic had sunk. Another ship, the Carpathia, was 58 miles away when it received the distress call. The Carpathia rushed to rescue the survivors. Only 705 people were saved.
- Newspaper headlines around the world announced the loss of the unsinkable ship. It quickly became the subject of countless books and films. In fact, the first Titanic movie appeared just a month later, starring one of the survivors. British

and American officials tried to discover the causes of the disaster. They looked at everything, from the way the ship was built to the actions of the crew. In the end, the main lesson of the Titanic was that no ship is truly unsinkable.

Lesson 16 Comparing Accounts of the Same Topic

Close Reader Habits

As you read, underline clues that tell you whether this is a firsthand or



Guided Practice

Read

by James McGough, in Sinking of the Titanic and Great Sea Disasters

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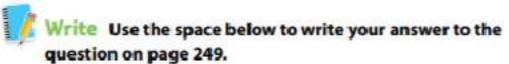
Close Reader Habits

How are the two accounts of the sinking different? Reread the article and the memoir. Underline details in the memoir that give facts not told in the article.



Use the Venn diagram below to organize your ideas.

Firsthand Account Secondhand Account Both



Short Response Use the information in your Venn diagram to describe how the firsthand and secondhand accounts of the disaster are the same and different.

HINT Choose a writing structure that shows similarities and differences.