

I looked out of the window of the *Nautilus* and saw what  
 2 my companion, Ned Land, was staring at. Before my eyes  
 was a sea monster worthy of myth and legend. Its eight long  
 tentacles were twice as long as its body, and its mouth was  
 like the beak of an oversized parrot. It was swimming at  
 great speed and staring at us with its enormous green eyes.

I overcame my horror and took out my sketch  
 book. This was an excellent opportunity for a marine  
 biologist. Suddenly the *Nautilus* stopped. A minute  
 passed and Captain Nemo, followed by his lieutenant,  
 entered the room. I hadn't seen him for some time.  
 I overheard them talking about the monsters.

'Have we struck anything?' I asked.

'No, Monsieur Aronnax. I think one of the giant  
 squid is entangled in the propeller.'

'What are we going to do?'

'We are going to fight them, man to beast,' he said.

'Man to beast?' I exclaimed.

Captain Nemo gave the order to rise to the surface. About  
 ten men with hatchets headed towards the central staircase.  
 I took a hatchet, and my companion, Ned Land, grabbed  
 a harpoon. As soon as one of the sailors at the top of the  
 ladder opened the door, it was pulled off with great force.  
 Immediately one of the tentacles of the squid slid down  
 into the opening like a gigantic snake. With one blow of  
 his hatchet, Nemo cut the tentacle off the squid. Then, we  
 all rushed out.

What a scene! By the time I got outside, one of the  
 beasts had grabbed a sailor in its tentacle and was throwing  
 him around like a feather. He struggled, but it was no good.  
 I shall hear his cries for the rest of my life. Captain Nemo  
 and his lieutenant threw themselves on the beast but it shot  
 out black liquid and we were blinded for an instant. Enough  
 time for the monster to disappear along with the sailor. Ten

or twelve squid attacked the sides of the *Nautilus*  
 and we fought them as best we could. Suddenly, I  
 turned around and saw Ned on the floor. He was  
 fighting bravely until a tentacle knocked him over.  
 A squid was about to cut him in two with its beak.  
 Luckily, Nemo rushed to his rescue and hit the  
 beast with his hatchet.

After a quarter of an hour of fighting, the  
 monsters left us at last. Captain Nemo, obviously  
 exhausted, gazed at the sea that had swallowed  
 one of his companions, and his eyes filled with  
 tears.



C. Read the text again and answer the questions. Choose a, b, c or d. Underline the parts of the text where you found the answers.

1. Who is narrating the story?
  - a. a sailor
  - b. the lieutenant
  - c. a marine biologist
  - d. the captain of the *Nautilus*
2. After getting over his initial fear, what did the narrator want to do?
  - a. speak to the captain
  - b. draw the sea monster
  - c. find out why the *Nautilus* had stopped
  - d. find out what the captain and his lieutenant were talking about
3. Why did the *Nautilus* stop?
  - a. A squid had caused engine problems.
  - b. Mr Aronnax wanted to draw the squid.
  - c. Captain Nemo wanted to catch the squid.
  - d. Captain Nemo did not want to hit the squid.
4. Why did the captain order the *Nautilus* to rise to the surface?
  - a. to repair the propeller
  - b. to escape from the squid
  - c. so they could fight the squid
  - d. so they could get their weapons
5. Which of the following is true?
  - a. A squid grabbed Captain Nemo.
  - b. Captain Nemo opened the door of the *Nautilus*.
  - c. Some men grabbed weapons and went to fight the squid.
  - d. Mr Aronnax killed a squid as soon as the door was opened.
6. What happened to the sailor trapped in the squid's tentacle?
  - a. He was blinded by the squid.
  - b. He was dragged into the sea.
  - c. He was covered in black liquid.
  - d. He was saved by captain Nemo.



D. Look at the highlighted words in the text and match them with their meanings a-j.

- a. to make it difficult or impossible for somebody to see \_\_\_\_\_
- b. to successfully control a feeling \_\_\_\_\_
- c. to look at somebody or something for a long time; to stare \_\_\_\_\_
- d. a person that you spend a lot of time with because you are friends or are travelling together \_\_\_\_\_
- e. to kick and fight so that you can escape from somebody/something \_\_\_\_\_
- f. to take or hold something with your hand in a sudden and violent way \_\_\_\_\_
- g. something that many people believe, but which is not true \_\_\_\_\_
- h. to hear something by accident or without the speaker knowing it \_\_\_\_\_
- i. to use violence to hurt somebody or damage a place \_\_\_\_\_
- j. bigger than usual \_\_\_\_\_