

Lost!

You are on a ship, on a trip home from abroad and you're looking forward to seeing your family. A fire on board has destroyed the radio and the ship is sinking. From the rate the water is rising inside the ship, you estimate that it will have completely sunk within two hours. The ticket on the ship was cheap, since it is not a passenger ship, and therefore the authorities are not aware of your location, so you can't count on being rescued.

It will take roughly 45 minutes to launch the only lifeboat on the ship (titanic flashbacks), which can only take 4 people. You can't jump into the water and swim for it, because the water is infested with hungry sharks who already smell their next dinner. The nearest land is an uninhabited tropical island 30 km away.

Your task is to decide which people will enter the boat. Everyone has agreed to accept your decision. Items held by individuals must stay with the owner; they cannot be transferred to other people.

Characters:

Captain: age 57. He has been married three times and has five children aged between 5 and 27. His youngest child has Down's syndrome. He drinks and smokes heavily and also plays the accordion. He carries only a bottle of rum.

Cook: a former Special Forces officer reduced to working as a cook after being court-martialled following an unfortunate incident involving a torpedo and a presidential yacht. Carries a knife.

Anglican priest: a Philosophy graduate who taught English as a foreign language in South America for several years before returning to her home town to look after her disabled mother (now aged 85) with whom she still lives. Trained as a counsellor and was ordained as a priest in 1990. She carries a first aid kit.

Ship's engineer's wife: Aged 35 and about to begin maternity leave from her work as a medical sales representative. Due to give birth to her first child in 4 months' time. For some reason known only to herself she happens to be carrying a fishing line and hook.

French Botany student: Lived in the Brazilian rainforest for eighteen months while carrying out Ph.D. research into plants that can be used in anti-cancer drugs: these are now undergoing testing by a major multinational pharmaceutical company. They have a rifle that is loaded.

Martha – 36 years old, on a cruise with her daughter Abigail. She has some college education but is now a housewife, she has 3 other children waiting at home for her. She has only luggage and her daughter.

Abigail – 5 years old, on a cruise with her mother Martha; en-route to see her grandparents for first time.

Beth – 45 years old, a marine biologist on research trip to study local islands and sea and plant life. She already has extensive knowledge of area; however, she has an ongoing medical condition but has her medication.

Brutus – 27 years old. Stowaway on cruise. He is accused of murdering wife back home. Sometimes displays a bad temper. He is a former college swim champ and extremely physically gifted.

Paul – 72 years old, Ex-Army medic, who received the medal of honour in battle. He is injured but thinks that he can cure himself in a few days' time.