

The Perfect Storm

Part I: Chapter 5 — 'First Warnings' (Questions 1–6)

Question 1: What tactical dilemma fundamentally precipitated Billy Tyne's decision to rendezvous with the Hannah Boden prior to steaming toward the Flemish Cap?

- A.** He had exhausted his provisions and required mechanical assistance to repair the malfunctioning refrigeration unit.
- B.** He realized the Andrea Gail lacked the requisite endurance to complete the transit to the Flemish Cap and back to port without refueling at sea.
- C.** He was compelled by Bob Brown to coordinate tactical maneuvers with Linda Greenlaw to safeguard fleet earnings.
- D.** He anticipated that unfavorable meteorological shifts along the Tail of the Banks would isolate his crew without radio contact.

Question 2: Linda Greenlaw's reaction to Billy Tyne's prospective itinerary predominantly underscores:

- A.** professional rivalry regarding swordfishing yields off the eastern seaboard.
- B.** acute apprehension regarding the perils of venturing so remote late in the fishing season.
- C.** skepticism regarding Billy's maritime qualifications and vessel maintenance standards.
- D.** reluctance to deplete the Hannah Boden's own fuel reserves in unchartered waters.



Question 3: How did the compromised output of the onboard ice machine establish a delicate operational balance for the Andrea Gail?

- A.** It constrained daily haul capacity to match cooling output while imposing a strict temporal boundary on the voyage to prevent catch spoilage.
- B.** It forced the crew to dump inferior swordfish overboard and terminate their longlines prematurely.
- C.** It prevented the vessel from traveling into warmer southern waters, restricting them to sub-polar latitudes.
- D.** It exacerbated psychological friction among the crew by necessitating round-the-clock physical labor to chip ice.

Question 4: The narrative's detailed exposition of Bob Brown's reputation and moniker ('Suicide Brown') functions primarily to:

- A.** prove that he was criminally negligent and directly liable for previous fatalities at sea.
- B.** illustrate why Gloucester captains routinely mutinied against vessel management.
- C.** contextualize Billy Tyne's taciturn aloofness and deliberate reluctance to apprise the owner of tactical shifts.
- D.** demonstrate how owner-captain camaraderie fostered mutual maritime safety protocols.

Question 5: What commercial incentive reinforced Billy Tyne's determination to race directly toward Gloucester rather than seek safe harbor or reduce speed?

- A.** An impending strike by Gloucester fish dockworkers set to paralyze harbor offloading.
- B.** The prospect of being the solitary vessel in port, thereby cornering the market and commanding premium prices.
- C.** Contractual bonuses offered by Bob Brown for breaking transit speed records from the Flemish Cap.
- D.** The requirement to return before the Canadian Coast Guard closed transit corridors across national waters.

Question 6: Which literary dynamic best characterizes the closing scenes of Chapter 5 as the Andrea Gail proceeds westward?

- A.** Overt panic among the crew contrasted against Billy Tyne's stoic indifference.
- B.** Sharp dramatic irony, contrasting the serene starlit ocean and the crew's optimism with ominous convergent weather systems.
- C.** A breakdown in shipboard chain of command as navigational charts reveal Sable Island's proximity.
- D.** Pervasive pessimism fueled by relentless gale-force winds and deteriorating mechanical failures.

Part II: Chapter 6 — 'Into the Storm' (Questions 7–12)

Question 7: In response to the Canadian Weather Service facsimile, how did Albert Johnston's navigational strategy contrast with that of Billy Tyne?

- A. Johnston anchored immediately south of Sable Island, whereas Tyne steamed north toward Newfoundland.
- B. Johnston veered northwest into colder, denser waters to mitigate wave amplitude, whereas Tyne maintained a direct westerly course into the tempest's trajectory.
- C. Johnston transferred his crew to the Hannah Boden, whereas Tyne attempted to outrun the gale along shipping lanes.
- D. Johnston surrendered his fishing gear to race home, while Tyne continued active swordfishing amidst the worsening sea state.

Question 8: According to meteorologist Bob Case, what anomalous atmospheric confluence constituted the 'perfect storm'?

- A. A high-pressure ridge over Bermuda colliding with twin polar vortices originating over Greenland.
- B. A cold front descending from Canada, a developing disturbance tracking from the Great Lakes, and warm-cored Hurricane Grace rebounding off the cold wall.
- C. Two tropical hurricanes merging over the shallow waters surrounding Sable Island and Nova Scotia.
- D. A sudden offshore microburst encountering rapid barometric pressure surges near the Gulf Stream.



Question 9: What empirical observation recorded by Canadian data buoy 44139 marked the definitive arrival of the storm system in the Andrea Gail's vicinity?

- A.** A catastrophic barometric collapse accompanied by total radio telemetry blackout.
- B.** A shift from sustained morning calm to 15-knot winds and rapidly mounting 12-foot seas around 2:00 p.m.
- C.** Water temperatures plummeting by ten degrees within a single twenty-minute interval.
- D.** Sudden 80-knot northwesterly squalls capsizing offshore automated monitoring equipment.

Question 10: Why did Billy Tyne's concluding radio transmission evoke such profound disquiet in Linda Greenlaw?

- A.** Billy broke radio protocol by explicitly broadcasting an SOS distress signal.
- B.** Billy reported that the vessel's steel hull had ruptured and the pumps were overwhelmed.
- C.** The uncharacteristic undertone of fear in the voice of an exceptionally seasoned, unflappable mariner signified unprecedented peril.
- D.** Billy confessed that he was incapacitated and unable to maintain control of the helm.

Question 11: Onboard the sailing yacht Satori, Ray Leonard's refusal to seek sheltered waters in Buzzards Bay primarily reflects:

- A.** unwarranted complacency and a headstrong preference for the thrill of the open ocean over safety precautions.
- B.** a legal obligation to deliver his passengers to Bermuda under a rigid maritime contract.
- C.** a severe navigational breakdown caused by failing GPS and steering equipment.
- D.** justified confidence based on the superior structural resilience of modern sailing yachts over commercial trawlers.

Question 12: What structural role does the parallel narrative of the Satori serve within Chapter 6?

- A.** It demonstrates that leisure vessels possess superior survivability compared to industrial fishing boats during North Atlantic gales.
- B.** It underscores the pervasive, multi-front threat posed by the emerging mega-storm across diverse maritime craft while contrasting commercial compulsion with willful amateur hubris.
- C.** It explains the precise navigational error that caused the Andrea Gail to alter course toward Cape Cod.
- D.** It provides a lighthearted counterpoint to the somber events unfolding on the Grand Banks.