

'A Descent into the Maelström'

'A Descent into the Maelstrom' is a short story written by Poe in 1841. A maelström is a whirlpool. The story Poe weaves out of this natural phenomenon is highly suggestive, leaving itself open to numerous interpretations.

Plot summary:

Complete with one word:

The story begins in the 1. _____ Sea off the Norwegian _____ coast, with an old man telling the narrator about a harrowing experience he had among the nearby 2. _____. Although his white hair makes him appear to be an old man, he tells the 3. _____ that he is actually not old. His experience and brush with death, however, made his black hair turn white in the course of one 4. _____.

Taking the narrator to a 5. _____, from whose top they can view the whirlpools and the great Maelström (or major whirlpool), this white-haired man relates how he and his two brothers were 6. _____ in the Maelström while in their 7. _____ boat, and how his two brothers were both 8. _____ into its current. The white-haired man 9. _____ to prevent his own descent into the Maelström by observing how the various objects from the boat were sucked into the whirlpool and eventually grabbing onto a water cask, and escaping the force of the Maelstrom. Its force gradually subsided, and some 10. _____ rescued the white-haired man.

The story ends with the white-haired man telling the narrator that none of the other fishermen believed his story.

