

Enjoy Reading English Tales

Place and Date: Ecuador, February, 2022

MOBY DICK, THE WHITE WHALE

Part 1



The novel “**Moby Dick**” by Herman Melville, is an epic tale of the voyage of a ship called **Pequod** and its captain, **Ahab**, who wants to hunt and kill a **white whale** called **Moby Dick**.

Ishmael tells us about his travel toward Nantucket.



One night, **Ishmael** rests at the **Spouter Inn** in **New Bedford**, where he meets the owner, **Peter Coffin**. Also, he meets **Queequeg**, a harpooner from an island called “**Kokovoco**” in **New Zealand**. Queequeg appears dangerous and strange since he prays a wooden idol called **Yojo**.

The next day, Sunday, **Ishmael** attends a church service and listens to a sermon by **Father Mapple**, who delivers a sermon considering the tale of “**Jonah and the whale**” a lesson to preacher “*Truth in the face of Falsehood*”.



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Next day, **Ishmael** and **Queequeg** decide to travel on a ship called, **Pequod**. The owner is **Bildad** a **Quaker**. **Peleg**, a sailor, tells them of the new captain, **Ahab**, who has an ugly scar on his face.

Then Ishmael and Queequeg meet a stranger man named **Elijah** who predicts a disaster on their journey to **Nantucket**.



Ishmael and Queequeg board the Pequod, a big ship, where Captain Ahab is still unseen, quiet in his own cabin. After that, they meet the crew on the ship:

Starbuck, the first mate. **Stubb**, a jovial and carefree man. **Flask**, a native with an aggressive attitude, the Indian harpooner **Tashtego** called "*Gray head Indian*" and the African harpooner **Daggoo**.

Several days into the voyage, **Ahab, the captain**, finally appears as a man apparently made of bronze who stands on an **ivory leg** fashioned from whalebone.



At last, Ahab tells the crew of the Pequod to look for a white whale, **Moby Dick**, the legendary whale that took Ahab's leg. Meanwhile, **Fedallah**, a strange, old **Parsee** predicts Ahab's death.

After passing the Cape of Good Hope, the Pequod comes across the **Albatross**, another ship on its voyage. Ahab asks whether they have seen Moby Dick as the ships pass one another, but Ahab cannot hear his answer and pass on.

The Pequod next comes upon the **Jeroboam**, a **Nantucket ship** afflicted with an epidemic. The next ship that the Pequod meets is **the Virgin**, a German ship in desperate need of oil. The Pequod competes with the Virgin for a large whale, and the Pequod is successful in defeating it. The Pequod then finds a large group of **Sperm Whales** and injures several of them, but only captures a single one.

Several days after, a young black boy called **Pip**, the cabin boy on the Pequod. The people are hunting whales, but Pip becomes frightened and jumps from the boat. Pip only survives because a nearby boat saves him, then he loses his sanity from the event.

To be Continued...

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READING ACTIVITIES

Vocabulary: characters

1. Match each word with a sentence.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| a) Moby Dick: | a) It is Queequeg's idol. |
| b) Yojo: | b) He is a little boy. |
| c) Pequod: | c) He tells us about Ahab. |
| d) Pip: | d) It is a big ship. |
| e) Ishmael: | e) A white whale. |

Close reading

2. Complete the sentences.

- a) At the Spouter Inn
 - b) At the church Father Mapple
 - c) Ahab
 - d) Jeroboam

- a) wants to kill the whale to get revenge.
- b) is a ship with a lot of sick people.
- c) Ishmael and Queequeg spend the night before the voyage.
- d) Father Mapple talks about falsehood

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3. Answer the questions. Choose the correct answer.

a) Where is Queequeg from?

- Nantucket
- New Zealand
- German

b) Who is the seer in the story?

- Pip
- Ahab
- Elijah

c) Why is Ahab angry with Moby Dick?

- Because it took Ahab's leg
- Because it has a Jonah in the stomach
- Because people hate this animal

d) Why does Pip lose his sanity?

- because he sees Moby Dick and tries to hunt
- because he kills the white whale
- because he gets afraid and falls into the water