

BEGINNER LEVEL
Billy Budd by Herman Melville

A Before Reading

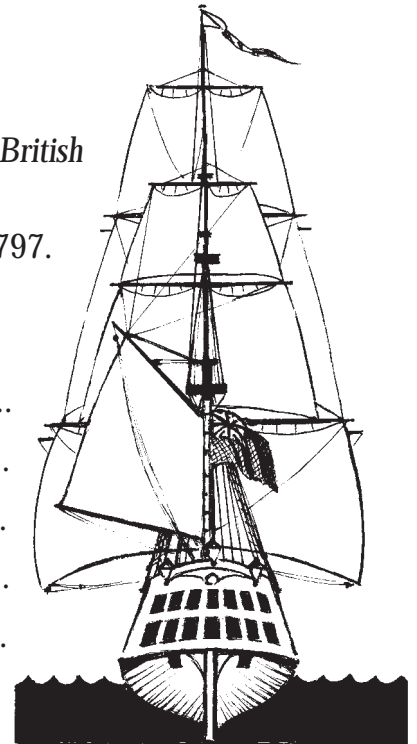
1 *It was the summer of 1797. Britain and France were at war. The British Navy was fighting the French Navy.*

Make some guesses about the sailors on a British warship in 1797.

Think about their lives.

Write some adjectives for (a) to (e).

- (a) food
- (b) battles
- (c) work on the ship
- (d) conditions on the ship
- (e) pay



2 Read *A Note About This Story* on pages 5 and 8. Were you surprised by anything on these pages? Were your guesses for Question 1 correct?

B While Reading

3 Read to the end of Chapter 3. What do you know about Billy? Write notes in this chart.

Description	Job	Family	Behaviour

4 Read to the end of Chapter 4. Find four adjectives to describe John Claggart.

5 Read Chapter 5. Why does Claggart hate Billy?

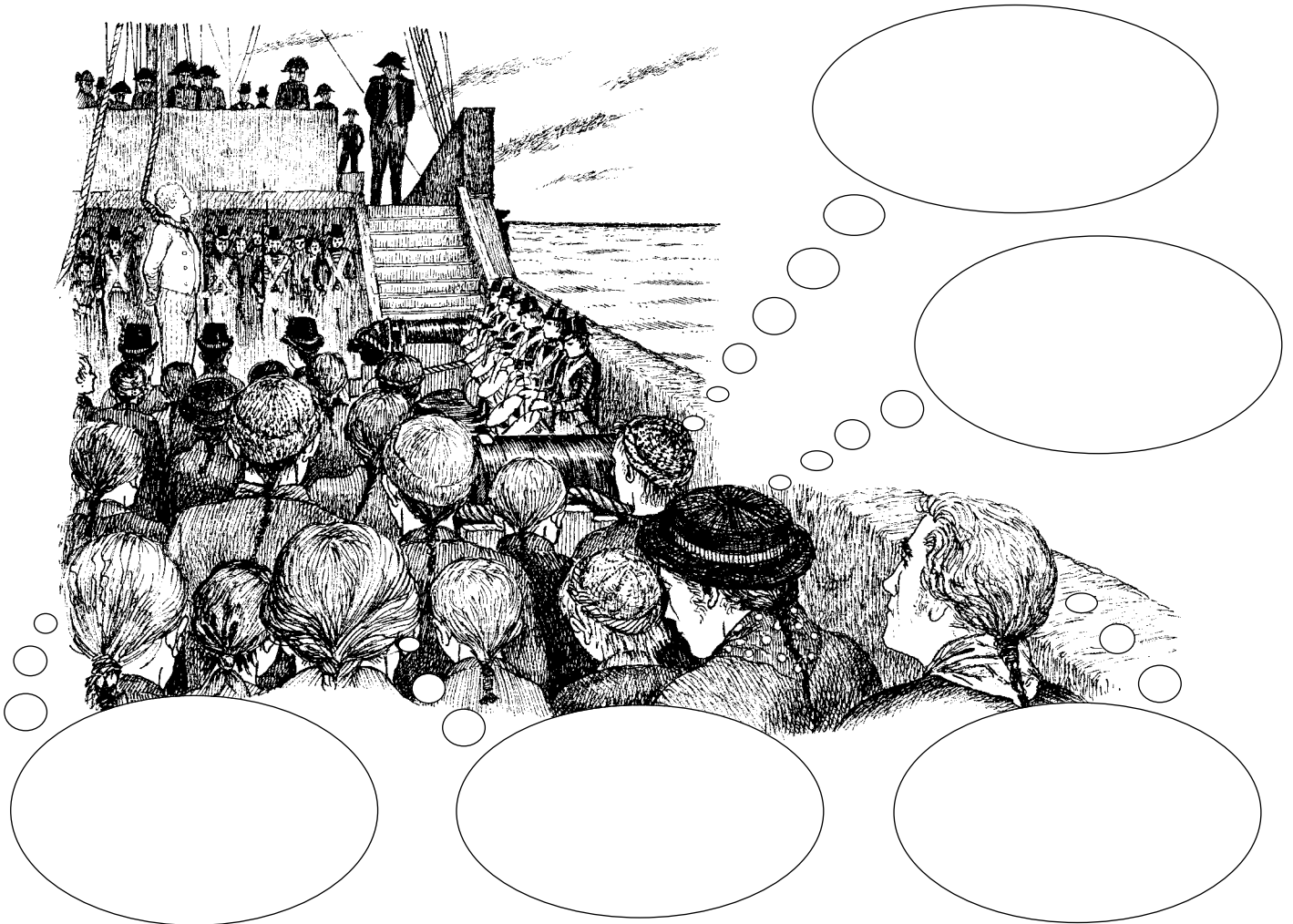
6 Read to the end of Chapter 7. Make a guess. What is going to happen next?

C After Reading

7 Look again at the end of Chapter 9. After the trial, Captain Vere talks to Billy Budd alone. The chapter ends with these words:

... *Billy's handsome face was peaceful. The young man was not angry. And he was not frightened.* Make some guesses. What had Vere said to Billy? Write some sentences for the captain.

8 Look at these sailors on the *Indomitable*. What are they thinking? Write a sentence in each bubble.



9 Do you agree with Captain Vere's decision about Billy? Give your reasons.

10 You can change the end of this story. You are Lieutenant Ratcliffe, and you are speaking at Billy's trial. You are going to save Billy's life. What do you say to Captain Vere?