

Moby Dick

Herman Melville

- 1 a *Possible answers include:*
 Illness and disease
 Storms, typhoons and bad weather
 Shipwreck, eg due to hitting rocks
 Pirates
 Shark and whale attacks
 Lack of food/supplies
 Getting lost at sea
- b *Student's own answers. Possible animals that have been hunted:*
 Foxes, deer, birds eg pheasants, rabbits, elephants, tigers
Reasons given may include: as a sport, for food or for their skin

2

Parts of a ship	Parts of a whale	Death
sails deck anchor rigging mast stern	spout jaw tail fin	drown coffin hearse

- 3 a *Student's own answer*
Another example of a famous first line in English literature is:
 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times' (*Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens)
- b The story is fictional, but loosely based on real events, namely the sinking of the *Essex* and the famous sperm whale, Mocha Dick.
- c *Student's own answer*
 Other examples may include:
 'Animal Farm', 'Watership Down' and 'White Fang'

4

Name of ship	Place of origin	News of Moby Dick
The <i>Albatross</i>	England	No news, as it was too windy to hear the captain's words.
The <i>Jeroboam</i>	Nantucket, America	They had seen Moby Dick. Their chief mate, Macey, had been killed by the whale.
The <i>Jungfrau</i>	Germany	The captain, De Deer, knew nothing of Moby Dick.
The <i>Bouton de Rose</i>	France	They had not heard of Moby Dick.
The <i>Samuel Enderby</i>	England	The captain had lost his arm trying to kill Moby Dick when sailing along the Equator.
The <i>Bachelor</i>	Nantucket, America	They had not seen Moby Dick, but had heard stories.
The <i>Rachel</i>	not given	They had chased Moby Dick the previous day, but unsuccessfully. They had lost one boat as a result.
The <i>Delight</i>	not given	Moby Dick had destroyed one of their whaleboats and 5 crew members had died.

5	Signs of good luck	Signs of bad luck or danger
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ismael choosing the ship he would sail on with Queequeg • Yojo, the little wooden figure • Passing the 'lucky' ship, the <i>Bachelor</i> • Flames on the mast and Ahab's harpoon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elijah's warning • The 5 'ghost' men getting on the ship • The cold wind and a screaming seagull as the <i>Pequod</i> departs • The dead body of a squid • Gabriel, the prophet from the <i>Jeroboam</i> • Dreaming of hearses and coffins • The typhoon – a 'curse' to the voyage • The flames, in Starbuck's view, show that God is against Ahab • Seals, or 'ghostly voices of drowned sailors' • The death of Fedallah and his 'whale hearse' • The ship as the 'second hearse'

b Student's own answers

6 Student's own answers. Possible ideas include:

Advantages	Disadvantages
You can learn new things and become more open-minded Seeing nature and different landscapes Learning different languages and experiencing other cultures Avoiding the boredom of staying in one place Meeting a variety of different people It brings economic benefits to the places visited	It's time-consuming and sometimes uncomfortable It can be bad for the environment, as polluting fuels are used for travel It can spoil nature and make the world seem the same in every place It can be expensive

7 a Student's own answers

b Student's own answers

8 a Student's own answers

b Student's own answers

9 Student's own answers