







Sunday April 14, 1912  
11:30 P.M.

Then he heard running footsteps and muffled voices out in the hallway. The ship's engines started up again in a slow, tired way. A moment later, they stopped for good.

Something was definitely going on. Jack pulled a heavy coat over his pajamas and shoved his feet into slippers.

"I'm going out on deck to see the fun," he called to his parents.

"I'm putting on my clothes now, son," Mr. Thayer replied. "I'll be right up to join you."

"Jack!" It was Milton Long. He rushed up to the Thayers like an old friend.

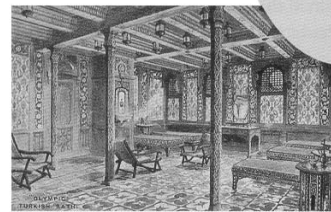
"You haven't organized another shipwreck for our amusement, have you?" Jack said.

Milton shook his head, but he wasn't smiling. He glanced at Mrs. Thayer. "They're loading the women and children into lifeboats. You'd better come."

(Right) Jack Thayer



(Right) A room for relaxation after a Turkish steam bath located in the upper deck.



(Below right) A luxurious first-class stateroom, located in the upper deck.

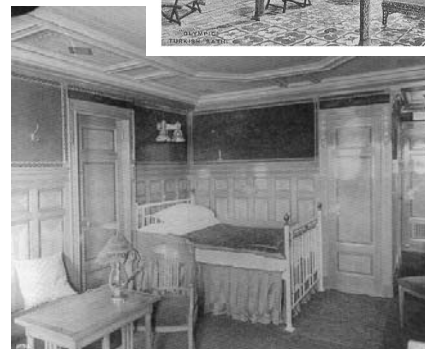
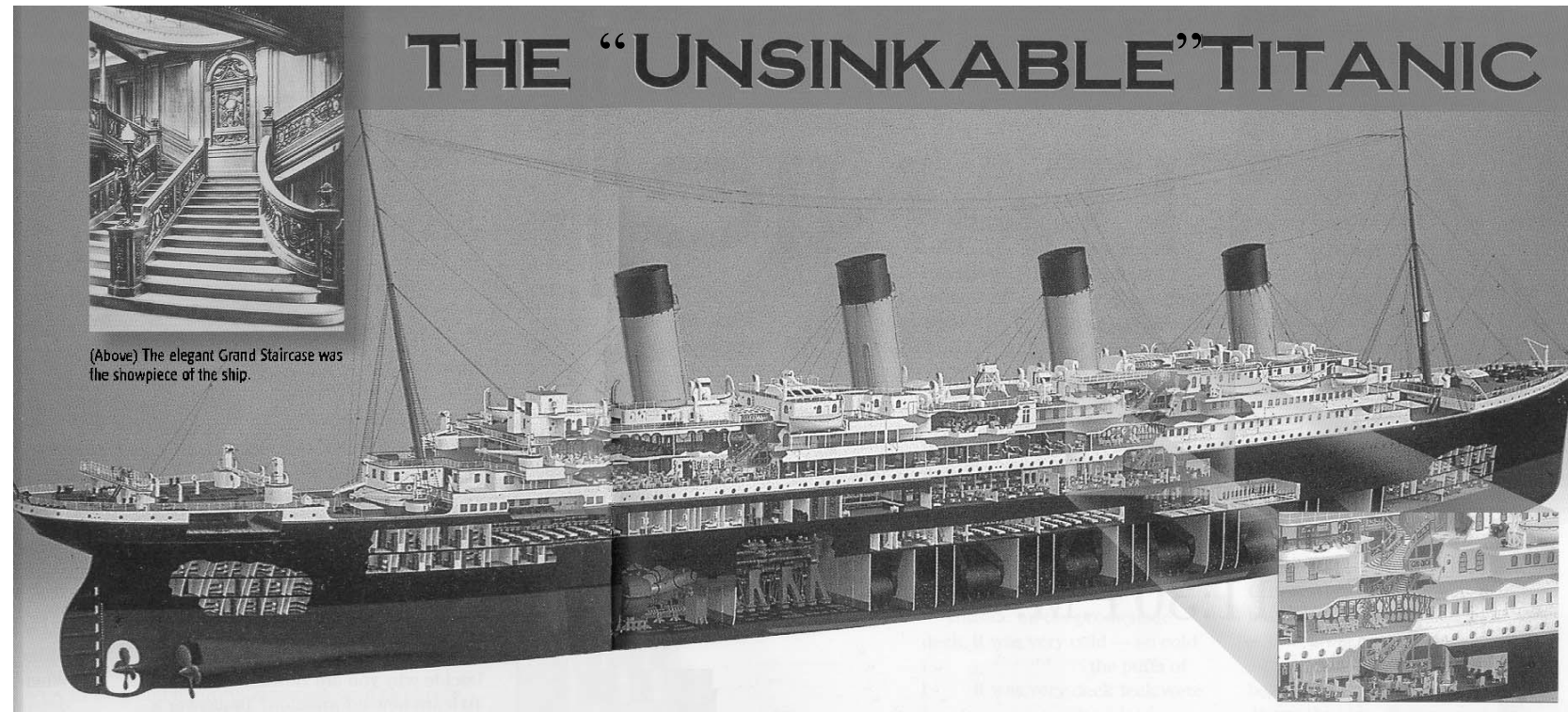


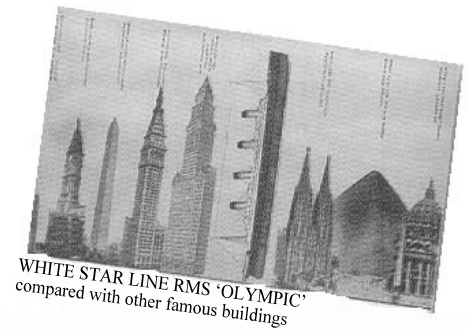
Figure 2



(Above) The elegant Grand Staircase was the showpiece of the ship.

# THE "UNSINKABLE" TITANIC

Figure 1 (Left) The *Titanic* was well named, for she was indeed a titan or giant among ships. Her enormous hull weighed more than 50 000 tons. Her nine decks made her as high as an eleven-story building, and she had four huge funnels on top of that. It was claimed that the water-tight compartments in the hull made her almost unsinkable.



WHITE STAR LINE RMS 'OLYMPIC' compared with other famous buildings

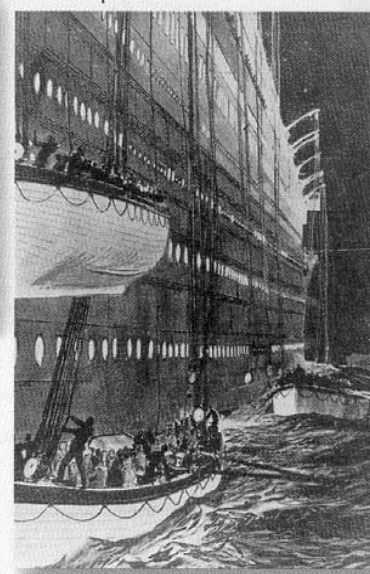
If placed on her end, the *Titanic* would have been taller than any of the buildings of her day (Above).

# THE DISASTER

(Right) Captain Arthur Rostron, captain of the *Carpathia*.



(Above) The overturned lifeboat is the one that provided refuge for 28 people, including Jack Thayer.



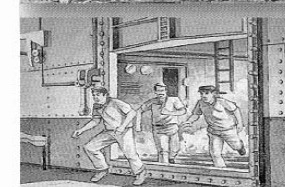
(Right) Lifeboats are launched from the *Titanic*.

(Far right) A lifeboat from the *Titanic* is brought alongside the rescue ship *Carpathia*.

Figure 3



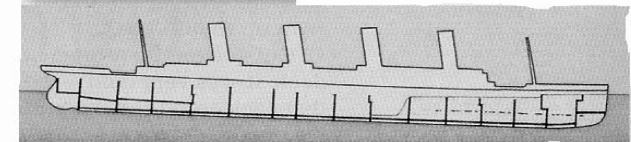
Deep inside the *Titanic*, in the boiler room nearest the bow, stokers were shovelling coal into giant boilers. Suddenly water began to pour in from the side of the ship, nearly knocking them off their feet.



The stokers ran through the closing water-tight door, which was operated by a switch on the bridge. But they found water pouring into the next boiler room as well and headed for higher decks.



The mail room was also filling with water. Clerks tried to move sacks of mail up to the post office, but soon it, too, was flooded, with stray parcels and letters floating about.



The iceberg scraped against six of the *Titanic's* 'water-tight' compartments. They filled with water and, since they were not sealed at the top, water easily spilled from one to the next, ensuring that the *Titanic* would eventually sink.

Figure 4

**Monday April 15, 1912  
2:00 A.M.**

Jack Thayer and Milton Long stood together on the *Titanic*'s deck. The stern of the ship was tilted up out of the sea. The bow was covered with water, and inch by inch it crept higher and higher.

Nearby, hundreds of people watched the lifeboats being loaded. Most were men, who stood talking or smoking quietly. But there were some women, too, who refused to leave the *Titanic* without their husbands.

There was not much noise. Jack watched a father say goodbye to his two young sons. He kissed the older boy before thrusting him into the arms of a sailor who was waiting in a lifeboat. Thick ropes began to lower the boat to sea. First one end lurched down, then the other. Then the father picked up the smaller boy. He was so bundled up that he could hardly move. The man hugged his son and dropped him into the arms of a passenger in the boat. When he stepped back into the crowd, his face was so sad that Jack couldn't bear to look at it.

Another boat close by was already loaded with women and children. But the boat was too full. An officer said that one of the passengers would have to get out. A young woman stepped quickly out of the boat before anyone could stop her. Jack heard her voice clearly. "You are married and have families," she said firmly. "I'm not. It doesn't matter about me." Then she walked calmly away.

Several boats already sat in the water a short distance from the ship. Jack tried to see whether his mother and father were in one of them, but it was too dark. In the crush of the crowd, he had lost sight of his parents as they led Mrs. Thayer to the boats.

"Should we try to get in a boat?" he asked Milton. He knew they were supposed to wait until all the women and children were safely off the ship. But Jack had seen that a number of men had managed to get away.

Milton pointed to a group of white-coated bellboys and elevator boys standing quietly together. "If those fellows are waiting, then we should too."

Jack nodded. Some of the boys looked very young.

"What on earth is going on there?" he said.

Farther down the deck, Jack could see a man in an evening suit and an elderly steward. They seemed to be tangled up in a pile of deck chairs and rope.

"They're tying chairs together."

As Milton said this, the old steward picked up a couple of chairs and heaved them overboard. The chairs floated gently on the glassy water.

Jack felt the back of his neck prickle with fear. What he had known in his heart for the past hour was suddenly very clear.

They would never get in a lifeboat. There simply weren't enough. The floating chairs were makeshift rafts. They would be something to grab on to when the time came to jump.

And that time was now. The ship lurched beneath them. The bow slowly began to slide into the water. From inside the ship came a rumbling sound, like the roar of an express train passing over a steel bridge.

Jack threw off his overcoat. He and Milton climbed up on the railing. In the background, the ship's orchestra was still playing.

"This is it, Jack," Milton said, holding out his hand.

"I'll be right with you," Jack said. He didn't want to say goodbye. "Good luck."

Milton let go. Then Jack, with a push of his arms, jumped into the sea.

The icy cold of the water went through his skin like a knife. The ocean pulled him down and down. Jack used every ounce of his strength to struggle back to the surface.

Then he swam as hard as he could away from the ship.

In the radio room of the *Titanic*, Morse Code was used to send and receive messages over the radio. Morse Code is a system of dots and dashes which represent the letters of the alphabet as well as each number. When the ship was sinking, the SOS signal was sent out - three dots followed by three dashes, then three dots again.

Breakdown of Those Saved			
	Women & Children	Men	Total
1st Class	94%	31%	60%
2nd Class	81%	10%	44%
3rd Class	47%	14%	25%
Crew	87%	22%	24%

Only 705 of 2 227 people on board the *Titanic* were saved. The ship carried 20 lifeboats that could supposedly hold 1 178 people. Unfortunately, the lifeboats were launched before they were filled to capacity.

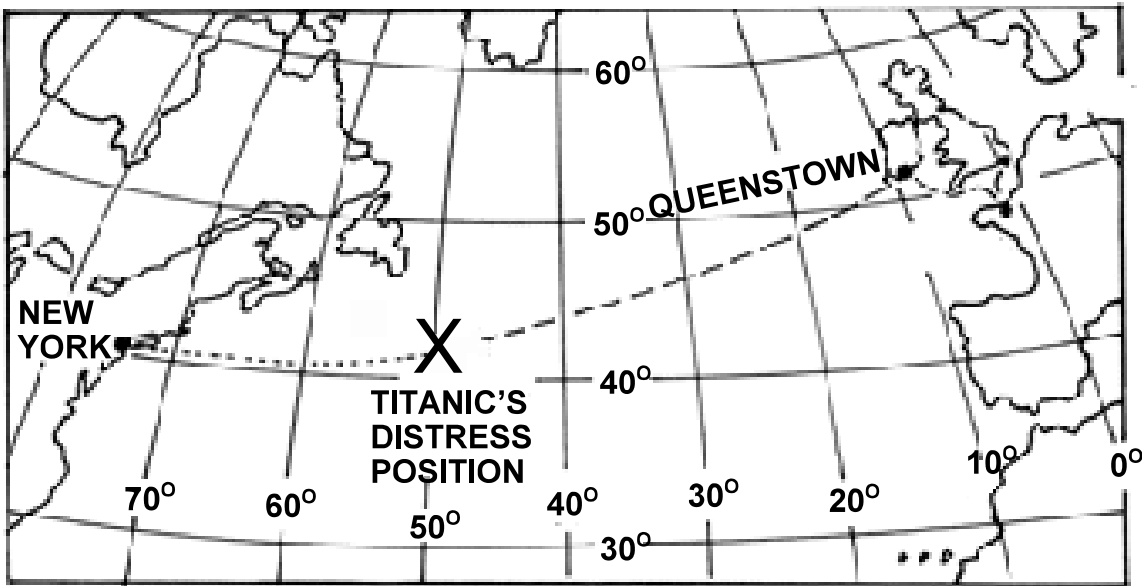


Figure 5

### Epilogue

After the *Titanic* sank, everyone wanted to know what had gone wrong. Investigations were held in both the United States and England.

In the end, the experts decided that no one could be blamed for the sinking. But they also decided that sea travel should be safer. All ships should carry enough lifeboats for every person on board. Special ice patrols would warn ships about icebergs.

Jack Thayer went to university and had a successful banking career. He eventually married and had children. Eight days after the disaster, Jack wrote a long letter to Milton Long's mother and father, describing his short friendship with their son and what it meant to him. Throughout his life, Jack insisted that he had seen the *Titanic* break in two on the night of the sinking. But experts thought it more likely that the ship had sunk in one piece. Jack was finally proven right in 1985, when Dr. Robert Ballard discovered the bow and stern sections lying nearly 600 metres apart on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean.

## Selected Response

1. What was the final event in the sequence that led to the sinking of the *Titanic*?
  - (A) filling the compartments with water
  - (B) hitting the iceberg
  - (C) overcrowding the upper deck by passengers
  - (D) stopping of the ship's engines
2. What is the purpose of putting quotation marks around 'water-tight'? (Figure 4)
  - (A) indicate action
  - (B) indicate tension
  - (C) show dialogue
  - (D) show irony
3. Which devices are found in, "The icy cold of the water went through his skin like a knife"? (Page 6)
  - (A) imagery and personification
  - (B) imagery and simile
  - (C) onomatopoeia and personification
  - (D) onomatopoeia and simile
4. In the context of the selection, what does the underlined word mean, "The floating chairs were makeshift rafts"? (Page 6)
  - (A) luxurious
  - (B) permanent
  - (C) temporary
  - (D) worthless
5. According to the map provided, where did the Titanic sink? (Figure 5)

	Latitude	Longitude
(A)	34° 46' N	45° 10' E
(B)	41° 46' N	50° 14' W
(C)	46° 52' N	44° 19' W
(D)	50° 30' N	56° 14' E













## Reading Activity 2 - Poetry

### Somewhere

by Carrie Jagt (Age 16)

Somewhere out there, amidst the trees,  
among the shadows, in humble solitude,  
a baby waits silently.

Somewhere in a desolate land, with troubled people,  
and buried cities, and silenced proverbs,  
a baby waits silently.

Somewhere in an impoverished town, forgotten by the world,  
disarmed from humanity, secluded with the past,  
a baby waits silently.

Somewhere in sheltered topography, in a vast expanse  
of sullen atmosphere and harboured love,  
a baby waits silently.

Somewhere in a world rocked by violence,  
envisioned with poverty, proclaiming helplessness,  
a baby waits silently.

Elsewhere people laugh and live,  
forgetting the world on the other side.  
And ignorant to all surroundings,  
turn their heads and look through grief,  
not acknowledging the baby that's waiting  
silently,  
endlessly,  
for the Mother that will never come.

## Selected Response

1. In the context of the poem, what is the meaning of the word “desolate”? (Line 4)
  - (A) barren
  - (B) detached
  - (C) populated
  - (D) wealthy
2. “Silenced proverbs ” is an example of what literary device?
  - (A) alliteration
  - (B) metaphor
  - (C) personification
  - (D) repetition
3. In the poem, what word best describes the reaction of the people of “Elsewhere” to the people of “Somewhere”?
  - (A) angry
  - (B) elated
  - (C) helpful
  - (D) indifferent
4. Overall, which word best describes the tone of this poem?
  - (A) hopeless
  - (B) impatient
  - (C) nervous
  - (D) outrage
5. What form is this poem?
  - (A) ballad
  - (B) epic
  - (C) free verse
  - (D) sonnet





