

Lesson 1: Charting the Course

☐ Getting Started

In the next lesson, you will begin reading *The Wanderer*, a novel by Sharon Creech. Before you begin reading, it is important that you have some background information about the setting of the story. The story follows the journey of an extended family as they sail across the Atlantic Ocean all the way to Ireland.

Ideas to Think About

- How is the environment on the water different from the environment on land?

Things to Know

- The **subject** tells what the sentence is about, and the **predicate** tells what the subject is or does.
- A sentence with a **compound subject** has two or more nouns as the subject.
- A sentence with a **compound predicate** has two or more verbs that tell what the subject is or does.
- A **grommet** is a rope or brass ring in a sail or piece of canvas.
- The **boom** are horizontal poles that extend the foot of a sail.
- An **Outhaul** is a line which is used to extend a sail and control the curve of the sail's foot.
- A **dinghy** or a tender is a small boat used to ferry people to a yacht; also used for sailing or rowing.
- **Fore** refers to at or towards the boat's bow.
- The **mizzen** is the smaller sail of a sailboat.
- The **helm** is the tiller or wheel used to steer.



Learn More about the Author

www.beyondthepage.com/link/23/

It is interesting to learn about the author of a book. Today, go to this website to learn more about this famous author and her books.

☐ Reading and Questions

You may have read or may want to read other books by this author.

After reviewing the website, answer the following questions:

1. Have you ever read a Sharon Creech book? If so, what was the title(s)?

2. Where was Sharon Creech born and what did she study in college?

3. What kinds of writing does Sharon Creech do?

Activities

☐ Activity 1: Charting the Course

On the map on "Charting the Course" you will find the Northern Atlantic Seaboard and countries of Ireland and England in Europe. Using an atlas or online map, locate and label the places listed below. These are the different places the crew docks on their journey aboard their boat, *The Wanderer*.

- Starting Point: Connecticut
- Islands: Martha's Vineyard, Grand Manan Island, and Block Island
- Countries: England and Ireland



Google Maps

www.beyondthepage.com/link/6134/

You can use Google Maps to help you locate the stops the characters make on their journey. In the upper left-hand corner of the screen, you will see a search bar. If you type in the locations (1 at a time), the website will take you to a map of that location.

☐ Activity 2: Sailing

Living on a boat is very different from living on land. The way sailors communicate with one another can sound like a foreign language at times.

Knowing the names of the different parts of the boat and where things are located is important for any sailor. When a boat is sailing, parts can break that need to be fixed, and the crew constantly has to readjust and reposition parts of the boat.

Use the "Parts of a Sailboat" sheets to familiarize yourself with sailing terminology.

Review the parts of the boat. As you read the novel, you can refer to the diagram when the characters discuss what they are doing while aboard the boat.

Review the sailing terminology to better understand how the crew of a sailboat communicates with one another and what they are doing as they maintain the boat.

☐ Activity 3: Subjects and Predicates

As you work through the lessons in this unit, you will be exploring ways to expand sentences in order to make them more interesting. As you may already know, a **sentence** is a group of words that completes a thought.

There are two important parts of a sentence: the subject and the predicate. The **subject** tells what the sentence is about and the **predicate** tells what the subject is or does.

The strange man in the blue hat walked quickly. (subject)

The strange man in the blue hat **walked quickly**. (predicate)

Notice that the complete subject of a sentence includes the noun and any words, like adjectives, that describe the noun. The predicate includes the verb and words like adverbs and direct objects.

If a sentence has one noun as the subject, the sentence has a single subject. If the subject of the sentence includes more than one noun, the sentence has a **compound subject**.

The **dog** ran down the street. (single subject)

The **dog** and the **cat** ran down the street. (compound subject)

A sentence with one verb that tells what the subject(s) is or does contains a single predicate, while a sentence with more than one verb telling what the subject(s) is or does contains a **compound predicate**.

The dog **ran down the street**. (single predicate)

The dog **ran down the street and stopped.** (compound predicate)

Follow the directions on the page called "Subjects and Predicates."

Wrapping Up

Review the parts of a sailboat and the sailing terminology. Next, review the difference between single and compound subjects and predicates.

Life Application

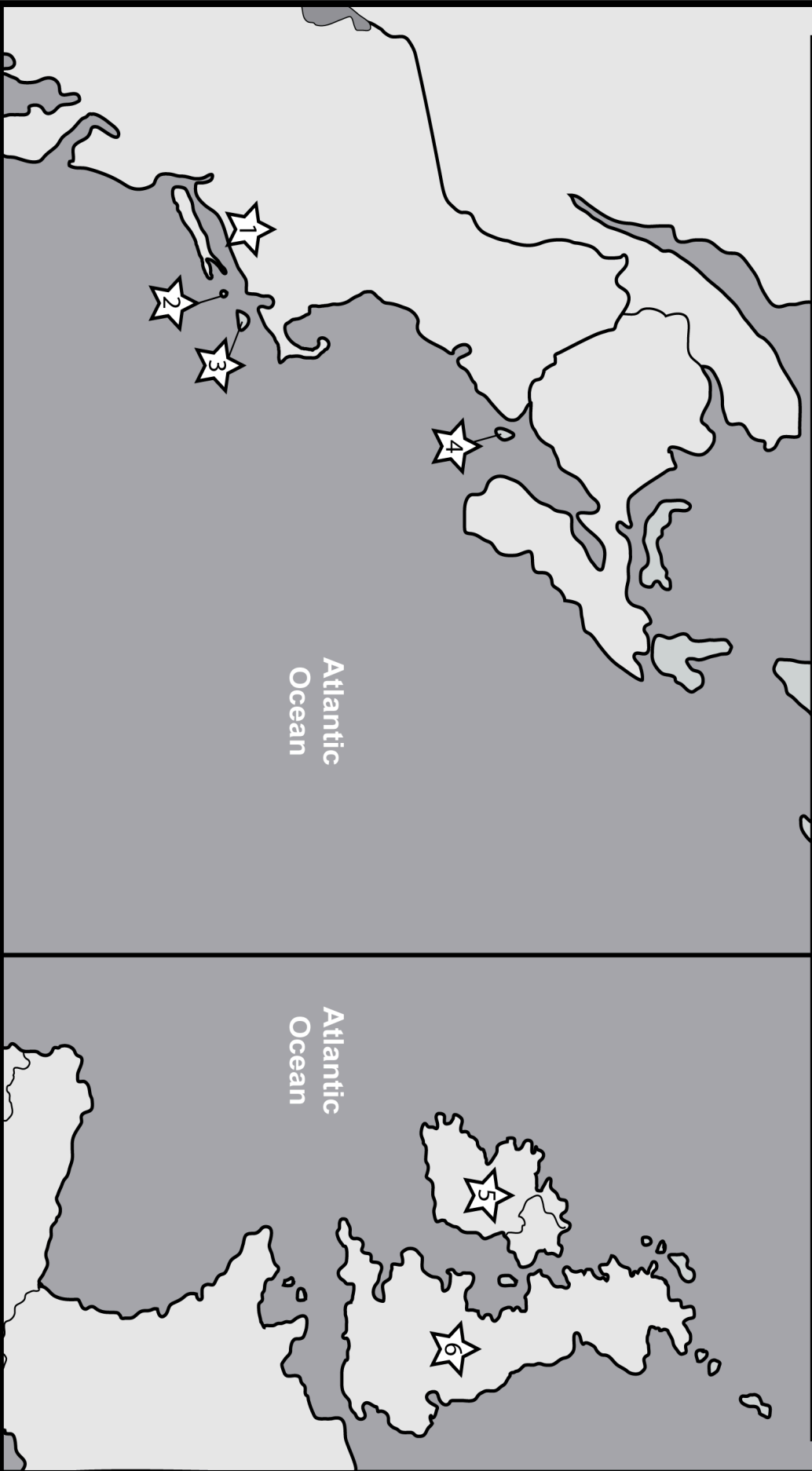
Look online for pictures of large sailboats and their quarters (where the crew lives beneath the boat). Compare the pictures to your own home.

Sailboat Interior



Charting the Course

Directions: Label the different places where
The Wanderer will dock along the journey.



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

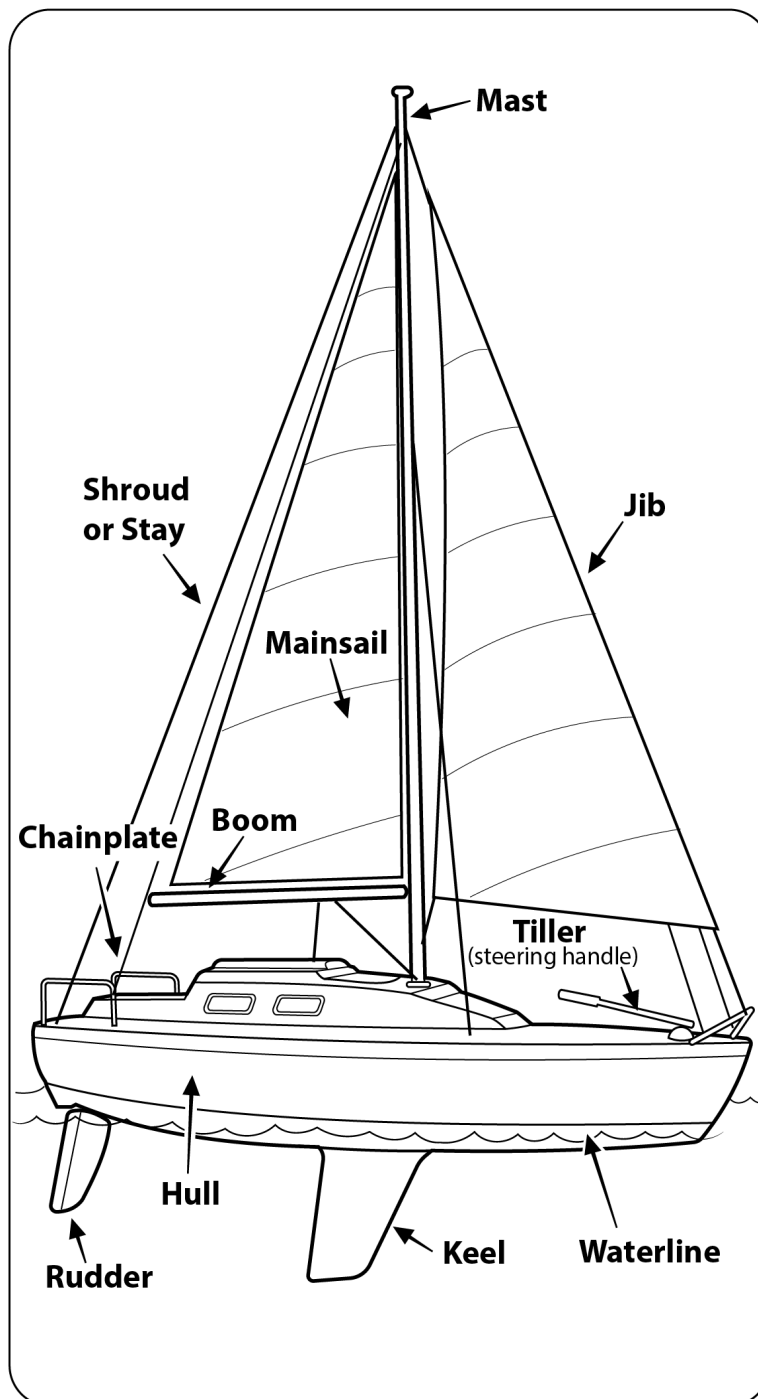
5. _____

6. _____

Parts of a Sailboat

A sailboat has many parts that help it move, steer, and keep the crew safe. Use the diagram and the pictures below to learn the meaning and location of important sailing terms.

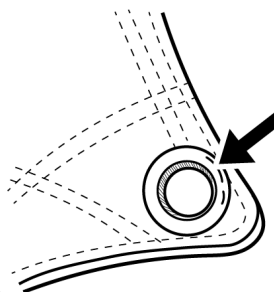
Main Boat Diagram



Sailing Terminology

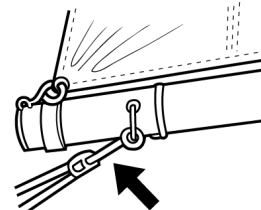
Grommet

A metal or brass ring in a sail or piece of canvas.



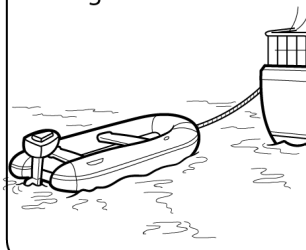
Outhaul

A line used to extend a sail, which helps control the curve (shape) of the sail's foot (bottom edge).



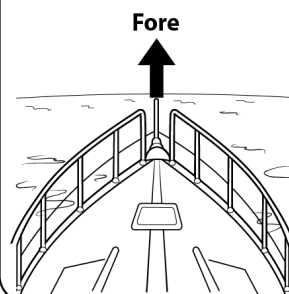
Dinghy or Tender

A small boat used to ferry people to a yacht; also used for sailing or rowing.



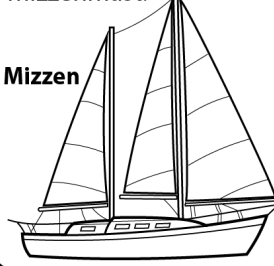
Fore

At or toward the boat's bow (front).



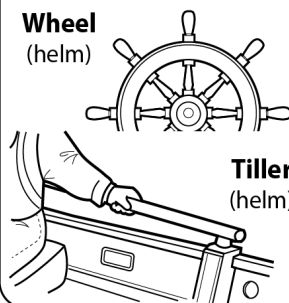
Mizzen

The smaller, aft (rear) sail on a multi-masted sailboat, set on the mizzenmast.



Helm

The tiller or wheel used to steer the boat.



Directions: Review the different parts of the boat and the sailing terminology. Use the pictures and definitions below to understand what each term means and where it is located on a sailboat. Then discuss how members of the crew communicate with each other and maintain the boat.

SUBJECTS & PREDICATES

Directions: In the sentences below, circle the subject of the sentence and underline the predicate. Write “s” if the sentence has a single subject or predicate and a “c” if it has a compound subject or predicate. The first one has been done for you.

Sentences		Subject	Predicate
1. Three men and two women	ran quickly off the deck of the boat.	C	S
2. You listened carefully when the captain of the ship read the directions.			
3. The crew worked all day and read all night.			
4. The dolphin jumped up from the water and stared at the unusual boat.			
5. The sails and hatches on the ship were battered and worn after sailing across the sea.			

Write a sentence with a single subject and a compound predicate.

Write a sentence with a compound subject and a single predicate.

Lesson 1: Charting the Course

Getting Started

✿ Ideas to Think About

- How is the environment on the water different from the environment on land?



Things to Know

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⦿ Skills

- Interact with text before reading by seeking additional information. (LA)
- Locate and label geographical locations on a map. (SS)
- Explore argumentative works that are read, heard and/or viewed by making connections among works, self and related topics. (LA)
- Demonstrate an understanding of conventional written and spoken expression by using a variety of sentence types correctly, punctuating them properly, and avoiding fragments and run-ons. (LA)
- Demonstrate the different roles of the parts of speech in sentence construction. (LA)

Introducing the Lesson

Explain to your child that the novel he is about to read is about sailing on the ocean, and the environment living on the ocean is much different from that of living on land. Explain that he will be better able to understand the story if he becomes familiar with the parts of a sailboat and the terminology that sailors use.

Discuss that before he reads the story, it will be helpful for him to chart the course the crew will take to their destination.

Reading and Questions

1. *Answers will vary.*
2. *She was born near Cleveland, Ohio, and she studied literature in college.*
3. *She writes novels and poetry, and some of her books are even written as poems.*

Activities

Activity 1: Charting the Course

Check to see that your child's map is labeled correctly.

Answer Key:

1. Connecticut
2. Block Island
3. Martha's Vineyard
4. Grand Manan Island
5. Ireland
6. England

Activity 2: Sailing

On this page, your child will learn the parts of the boat and some sailing terminology that will help him to better understand the story. Remind him to refer to this sheet as he reads the novel.

Activity 3: Subjects and Predicates

Check your child's answers using the following answer key. Answers will vary for the sentences written at the bottom of the activity page.

Subjects and Predicates (Answer Key)

Sentences	Subject	Predicate
1. <u>Three men and two women</u> <u>ran quickly off the deck of the boat.</u>	C	S
2. <u>You</u> <u>listened carefully when the captain of the ship read the directions.</u>	S	S
3. <u>The crew</u> <u>worked all day and read all night.</u>	S	C
4. <u>The dolphin</u> <u>jumped up from the water and stared at the unusual boat.</u>	S	C
5. <u>The sails and hatches on the ship</u> <u>were battered and worn after sailing across the sea.</u>	C	C

Wrapping Up**Questions to Discuss**

- What is the course the crew will use to travel from the United States to Europe?
- Do you think you would enjoy life on a boat? Why or why not? How would the environment on the boat and outside the boat be different from the environment on land?

Things to Review

Review the difference between single and complex subjects and single and compound predicates. Ask your child to verbally provide examples of sentences with single and compound subjects and predicates.