

Lesson 9: Land Ho!

☐ Getting Started

The crew ends its journey in today's reading and learns that sometimes the most strenuous circumstances can bring out the best in people and lead to self-discovery. Have you ever thought about how boring life would be if there were no challenges or bumps along the way? It is usually during the hard times that we learn the most and are molded into the people we are today.

Stuff You Need

- *The Wanderer* by Sharon Creech
- painting paper or canvas* (Activity 2 - Option 1)
- paints and paintbrushes* (Activity 2 - Option 1)

Ideas to Think About

- How does the environment affect our emotions?
- How are people changed by experiences?
- How do trials change us in positive ways?

Things to Know

- The main idea, underlying meaning, or lesson of a literary work is called the **theme**.

☐ Reading and Questions

Finish reading the book and then answer these questions in complete sentences:

1. How did the crew feel when they saw land?

2. Why did Cody look at Sophie when she was telling the people in Ireland the story of their journey?

3. Who did Dock visit in Ireland?

4. What did you learn about Sophie's past?

5. Did Bompie know Sophie?

6. Was Sophie really telling Bompie's stories?

7. How did Sophie know Bompie's stories?

Remember to finish the "Character Timelines" sheet.

Activities

☐ Activity 1: Themes

A main idea or underlying meaning of a literary work is called a theme. In *The Wanderer*, the diverse group of characters and their personalities reinforce the themes of the book. One theme in the story is that challenging events can bring about positive change.

You will use the "Themes" pages to explore the themes of the book. Ask your parent which option to complete.

Option 1

On the first two pages of the activity, you will list one way each character is changed for the better. On the third page, you will consider two other themes of the story and provide evidence from the story to support the themes.

Option 2

You will provide two themes for the story and use evidence from the book to support your ideas.

☐ **Activity 2: Sharing a Piece of Yourself**

One of the themes of the book is the giving of self to help someone else. The characters in the book learn to be more giving and kind as they venture across the ocean and face dangerous conditions.

In this activity, you will practice giving of yourself to others. Select one of the following options:

Option 1: Gifts

Uncle Mo gives each family member a special picture with great significance behind it. Using watercolors, pastels, or other art supplies, paint a picture of a family member. Make the picture personal, highlighting something special about the person. Then give the painting a title that reflects the person and the picture.

Option 2: A Lesson

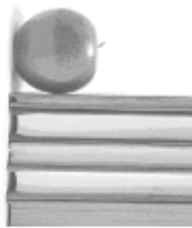
Each character teaches the crew something new - from radio code, to juggling, to the Bompie stories Sophie tells. Pretend that you have been asked to teach your family something that you enjoy doing. What would you teach? How would you teach it? Write down a plan for how you would teach the skill or idea to your family and then practice providing that instruction.

Wrapping Up

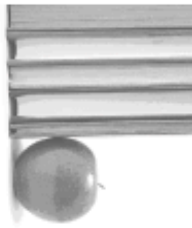
You have finished the story *The Wanderer*. Think about your favorite part of the story, your favorite character, and maybe characters you didn't like so much. Would you recommend this story to a friend?

Life Application

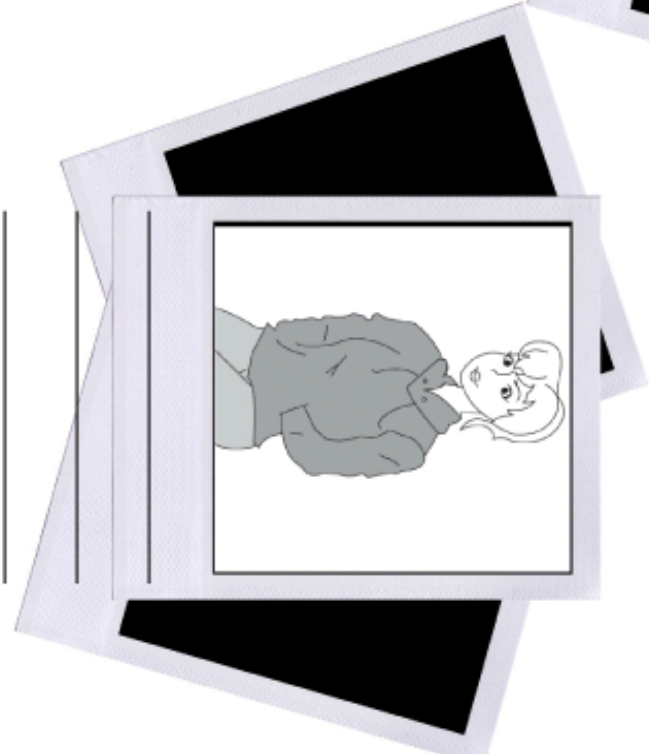
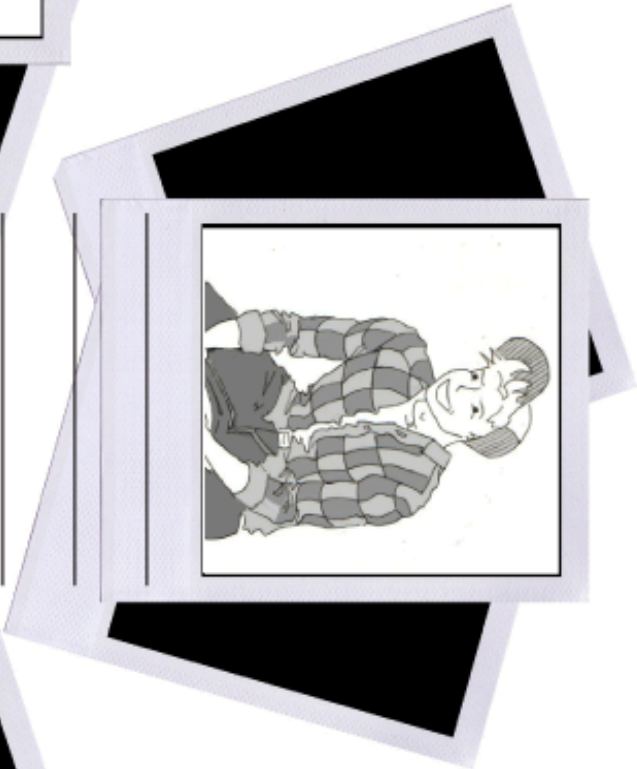
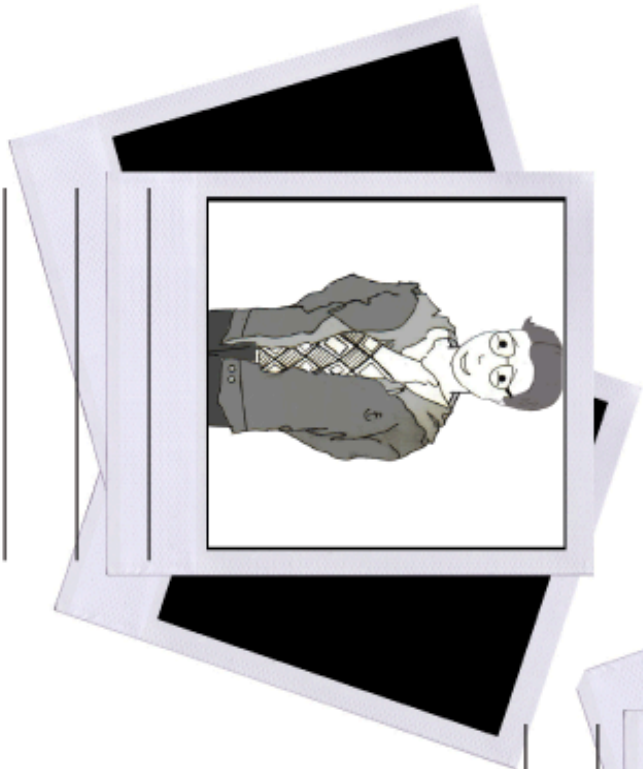
Arrange for a time to share your paintings or your lesson with your family.

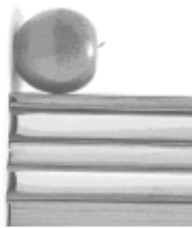


THEMES

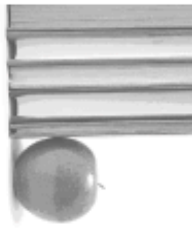


Directions: List a way each character has changed as a result of the challenging voyage across the ocean.





THEMES



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Directions: Provide evidence from the book to support both themes.

Face your fears and
you can overcome them

Learn to depend on and
appreciate others



Directions: Think of two themes in the story. Provide evidence from the book to support both themes.

THEME

THEME

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Getting Started

✿ Ideas to Think About

- How does the environment affect our emotions?
- How are people changed by experiences?
- How do trials change us in positive ways?

📖 Things to Know

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⦿ Skills

- Contrast the actions, motives (e.g., loyalty, selfishness, conscientiousness), and appearances of characters in a work of fiction and discuss the importance of the contrasts to the plot or theme. (LA)
- Recognize underlying messages in order to identify theme(s) within and across works. (LA)
- Understand that theme refers to the meaning or moral of a selection and recognize themes (whether implied or stated directly) in sample works. (LA)

Introducing the Lesson

Explain that today the crew's voyage comes to an end. Ask your child what has been his or her favorite part of the adventure.

Reading and Questions

1. *They couldn't believe it; they were excited, relieved, and thankful to be alive.*
2. *Because her details were not correct. She was mixing up stories.*
3. *Rosalie.*
4. *Her parents died, and then she lived with a grandfather who died. Next she lived with an aunt who didn't want her and then in a number of foster homes before being adopted.*
5. *Yes, through the letters they had written.*
6. *Yes, except the parts about struggling in the water.*
7. *He had written letters to her where he told the stories.*

Activities**Activity 1: Themes**

Select one of the options for this activity. Option 2 is more challenging.

Option 1

On the first two activity sheets, your child will provide examples of changes in the characters that happened as a result of the voyage. Some sample answers have been provided below:

- *Cody* has developed a better relationship with his father. He is far more optimistic and open to new experiences than at the beginning of the book. He is also more willing to be serious when it is needed.
- *Brian* has also become more open to new experiences. He is a bit more flexible and able to kick back and have fun. Brian was very concerned with the truth, particularly concerning Sophie, at the beginning of the novel; by the end he seems to understand her better.
- *Sophie* has accepted her past and seems more comfortable with her new home (planning adventures along the Ohio River). She also says she feels like she lives in the present rather than muleland, dreamland, or earthland.
- *Uncle Dock* is finally going after the woman he loves.
- *Uncle Stew* has found a new job that he enjoys doing. Like Brian, he also seems a bit more flexible when it comes to new experiences.
- *Uncle Mo* has started taking an art class and is in general more concerned with doing things he enjoys for fun. He has also developed a better relationship with his son, Cody.

On the third activity sheet, your child will provide examples from the book to support the themes listed. Some examples are provided.

Face your fears and you can overcome them.

- Sophie spends most of the book trying to face her fear of water. By the end of the book she is able to talk about her experiences and seems no longer afraid.
- Uncle Dock seems afraid of rejection but eventually overcomes his fear by pursuing Rosalie.
- Uncle Mo and Uncle Stew both work at jobs they don't like because they seem afraid of any other life. By the end of the book they have begun pursuing their own interests.
- Everyone on the boat faces a fear of death when The Wave crashes down on *The Wanderer*. They develop closer relationships with each other as a result.

Learn to depend on and appreciate others.

- Uncle Stew and Brian learn to appreciate Sophie and Cody for the different talents and skills they bring rather than insisting everyone know and be able to do everything.
- Uncle Mo appreciates his son's energy and talents, like juggling.
- Cody learns to appreciate Brian and Uncle Stew's organizational skills.
- Sophie learns to depend on others by opening up about her past.

Option 2

Your child will describe two other themes she took away from the book and give examples from the text that support those themes.

Activity 2: Sharing a Piece of Yourself

In the story, the characters share a piece of themselves with others by teaching new things to one another, telling stories, or sharing personalized art. For this activity, your child will decide if she wants to paint a personalized picture for a family member that reflects something important about the person who receives it or if she wants to teach her family how to do something that is important to her.

Arrange a time for your child to share his or her painting or lesson with the family.

Option 1: Gifts

For Option 1, your child will paint a personalized picture for a family member that reflects something important about the person who receives it.

Option 2: A Lesson

For Option 2, your child will teach her family how to do something that is important to her.

Wrapping Up**Questions to Discuss**

- What was Sophie's story? (She was sailing with her parents and they died during a storm.)
- What was unique about the pictures Uncle Mo gave each family member?
- How do you think Sophie will be different after her journey on The Wanderer?
- What do the characters discover about themselves and one another as a result of their voyage across the ocean?

Special Notes

One of the crewmembers makes the suggestion that each person on board should teach the rest of the group something they don't know. One member teaches radio code, one teaches juggling, and one shares her grandfather's stories, which are full of lessons. This can make for a fun family night. Each person in the family can teach the family something new.

Dock quotes poetry along the journey. At the end of the story he quotes "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner." Read the poem to your child and discuss the story of the poem.