

Unsinkable by Hilton Ayrey

TEXT STRUCTURE
Identify Headings and
Trigger Words
(SharpReading Stage 5B)

InfoByte #7 Level 5

On April 1912, the Titanic set off on her maiden voyage across the Atlantic Ocean. She was the largest and best equipped ship that had ever been built. No expense had been spared to create a luxury hotel on water. The latest design ideas also meant she was the safest ship ever. The hull was divided into sixteen separate sections, each of which could be automatically sealed off if ever the boat started leaking. Many thought that this would make her unsinkable.

On day three of her voyage, the Titanic received warnings from nearby ships about large icebergs in the area. The ship continued to steam on through the night at close to full speed. At 11:40 p.m. a lookout spotted a huge iceberg straight ahead. Every attempt was made to change course but the size and the speed of the ship made this very difficult. The Titanic crashed into the side of the iceberg, slicing open five of the sixteen watertight sections at the front below the water. Water rushed into the bow of the ship and she began to tilt downwards.

By 1:20 a.m. it was obvious that the ship was going to sink. Many passengers who had been asleep in their lower deck cabins were hopelessly trapped as the ship filled with water. The crew and passengers had not been trained for such an emergency. Not having nearly enough lifeboats for the number of people on board added to the panic. Women and children were loaded first and male passengers and crew were left behind. But in the confusion many of the lifeboats were launched only half full.

At 2:20 a.m., two hours and forty minutes after ramming the iceberg, the speed of sinking suddenly increased. As the front deck of the ship went under, the sea poured in through open hatches and passageways. The front of the boat, now totally filled with water, sank down into the ocean while the back of the ship lifted out of the water. It kept rising higher and higher with hundreds of people desperately clinging to it until suddenly, it slid down, disappearing into the murky depths. Fifteen hundred passengers and crew died in the icy waters that night making this one of the worst disasters at sea.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

1. Select five tricky words from the InfoByte. For each word look up the meaning, write it down, then write your own sentence using the word to show that you really understand what it means.
2. For each paragraph decide on a heading which summarises the main idea in the paragraph. For each piece of information in the paragraph write down one word that will trigger the information for you.
3. Draw a diagram with labels showing how the Titanic sunk.
4. Write a poem or a rap about the sinking of the Titanic.
5. Design a luxury ship that is ABSOLUTELY unsinkable.
Use diagrams and labels to explain your interesting ideas.