

Chapter Two - The Disaster

- **You do a normal activity on the Titanic e.g. having a meal.** This does not have to be described minute by minute. Use general passing of time phrases e.g. we spent the day... Each day we... etc. *First-class passengers would have had access to all the Titanic's facilities such as the swimming pool, gym, squash courts, Turkish baths, Parisian cafe and fancy dining rooms. Second-class passengers would have less fancy dining options and a smaller deck to walk on than the first-class passengers, but would still have access to the facilities. Third-class passengers had a deck at the back of the ship to play and socialise on. They also had a multi-purpose room where they might have played music, read or socialised.*
 - This is a good section to introduce some **foreshadowing** if you are going to use this device.
- **The Titanic hits the iceberg!**
 - What are you thinking / feeling?
 - How do you know that the ship has hit an iceberg?
 - Begin to build the tension and pace of your writing by using **short sentences** and **intense verbs**.
- **It all starts to go wrong!** You realise that you are in danger and you need to escape.
 - How are you going to try and escape?
 - How are you feeling now? Can you show this through your actions?
 - Increase the pace by using **short sentences**.
 - Try adding suspense using a **rhetorical question** to make your reader want to read on.
 - Draw your reader in using **onomatopoeic words**.
- **About to escape!**
 - How will you escape? *Remember, women and children were allowed on the lifeboats first. Men may have been allowed if there were no more women and children in the area or if they had experience of being at sea. First-class passengers were also more likely to get to a lifeboat first. Third-class would have found it more difficult.*
 - Could you leave this chapter on a cliffhanger? Try using an **ellipsis (...)** to create a 'what happens next?' moment.

Check your:

- Capital letters and full stops are correct and in the right places (don't forget capital letters for proper nouns!).
- Paragraphs are in place and correct. You can use two slashes (/ /) to show you need a new paragraph if you forgot one.
- Spellings - If you're not sure, try looking it up in a dictionary, ask your partner or an adult.

Devices to build tension and suspense:

- Short sentences
- Onomatopoeia
- Choice of intense verbs
- Rhetorical questions
- Ellipsis (...)
- Repetition
- Modal verbs

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In this chapter, the Titanic will hit the iceberg and your character will need to try and escape. You need to write your chapter up until the point your character is about to escape. Could you leave it on a cliffhanger?

- In the build up to the disaster, you are challenged to use foreshadowing to drop little hints to the reader that something bad is going to happen.
- Use rhetorical questions to add suspense to your writing and make your reader desperate to read on.
- Think carefully about your choice of nouns and verbs. Calling an object or person by a synonymous noun can also change the effect e.g. a crowd could be a swarm or a wave of people, depending on what effect you want to create.

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Read this extract and pick out the different ways the author has created tension, suspense and action. Pick out devices to 'steal' to use in your writing.

Like the creeping shadows around her, Lucy stealthily approached the building silhouetted against the pale night sky. She knew they would be looking for her, but she needed to get to the top of that building, and fast. With a quick check of her watch, Lucy slipped past the motion sensors, not knowing that a camera had spotted her enter the building. She crouched behind the dusty cabinet. Silence. They hadn't found her... yet. She checked her watch again: five minutes to go. Would she make it in time? She listened again. A tingling sixth sense was ordering her to move...now! A bullet whistled past her and buried itself into the wall. Whipping around, Lucy saw the vast shadow of a figure heading straight for her. She scrambled to her feet. Sprinting for the staircase, she reached it just as a bullet ricocheted off the banister. Heart racing she reached out for the nearest door, wrenching it open before the figure could reach her. She whirled into the room and slammed the door behind her. As she caught her breath, her stomach dropped as she realised she wasn't alone.



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