

Engaging in Reading

• Infer

• Visualize

• Find important ideas

3. To this day, the exact cause of the tragedy has not been determined. Using information from this selection, how might you explain the cause(s) of the disaster?

LEVEL ONE

Example 1

I believe that it was a mixture of mis-interpretation of direction and fog that caused the Empress to sink. I believe that because the crew did not make sure they were going to steer clear, they crashed. The fog had also blocked their visibility.

Example 2

A fog descended on the place both ships were in. They could not see what they were doing. Storstad accidentally crashed into emperess and water flowed in the hull. It may also be due to lack of technology that would let ships communicate.

Thinking	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<i>Making Inferences</i> Makes and explains inferences and interpretations supported by stated and implied ideas from the text	Limited: makes simple, unsupported inferences and interpretations; may be illogical	Partial: makes and supports simple, reasonable inferences and interpretations with some specific evidence	Considerable: makes and supports logical inferences and interpretations with specific evidence	Highly effective: makes and supports logical, insightful inferences and interpretations with specific, convincing evidence

Responses require students to understand explicit and implicit information in the text.

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LEVEL TWO

Example 1

This disaster could have occurred by accident and it was no one's fault. The Empress of Ireland and Storstad collided only because they didn't know where they were going. The same thing happened with the Titanic. The ship was going through a thick fog, and by the time they saw the iceberg, it was too late. Even though this was a horrible disaster, lots of people survived, and remember this event.

Example 2

I might explain the causes of this disaster, by stating that the two ships, the Empress, and the Storstad were both merging to the same channel at the same time. With the descending fog that prevented the captains' views from seeing each other's positions there was not much prevention of the accident that could have occurred.

Example 3

I think that the exact cause of this disaster was pretty obvious. The fog made it impossible to see each other. Had it been the middle of the day, it is doubtful they would have crashed. Also, during the fog, they could have used their FOG HORNS to prevent a crash. I forgot, these are for show. Anyway, but Captain's should have changed their course due to safety PREcautions.

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LEVEL THREE

Example 1

The Empress of Ireland was heading out of the St. Lawrence river when Captain Kendall recieved a signal that there was another ship in its path. Thinking he had a lot of time, Kendall didn't move off his route right away. The Storstad also didn't move, and so neither ship could get into contact with the other, they assumed the other ship would change routes, but they didn't.

Many people believe the cause of the disaster was the fog, not allowing either ship to see eachother. Others believe that it was the captains' inability to contact with one another. But many people blame the whole incident on Captain Kendall, who didn't do his job correctly once.

Example 2

This tragedy had some causes leading up to it. First off, it was the careless captain of the Empress, Henry Kendall. The Captain was warned about another ship going in the path but he did not turn to another direction or go back. The Captain just kept going on the path that he thought was right.

Next the first mate of the Storstad, Alfred Toftenes also saw a boat, but he just assumed that it had turned left. Instead he could of changed the coarse of his ship or even just waited until the first ship passed.

Lastly the cause of the collision was the bow designed to cut ice, on the Storstad, if it weren't for the sharpness, the Storstad would not be able to cut through the Empress.

Example 3

There are a few different things that could be considered the cause of this disaster. First of all, Captain Kendall didn't pay much attention or concern that the other boat (Stoistad) was nearby. If the captain had paid more attention he would have done something like Alfred Toftenes attempted to do.

Second, and what I think really caused the disaster was the great amount of fog. The ships were unable to see eachother and therefore, making it very hard to stay clear of eachother.

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LEVEL FOUR

Example 1

The cause of this disaster is due to the unexpected weather conditions. Neither captain is totally at fault. The selection states that there was wireless communication at Pointe-au-Père by the Empress. That would indicate that they were on the correct route. However I wonder if Captain Kendall misjudged the distance of the Starstad at 13 km. It could have been much closer. Remember it was the middle of the night and visibility may have been limited. The first mate Toftenes also may have been mistaken when he “swore that the steamer changed course.” These two situations, combined with the sudden intense fog could account for the collision. Overall this was a distaster and I hope people learn from it.

Example 2

From the article it seems that there are different accounts of how this tragedy occurred. From both accounts it is a stated fact that there was a heavy fog which made it impossible to see.

To try and explain the cause of the disaster, I would gather facts from both accounts and see which facts agreed. The fact that the Storstad collided with the Empress is undeniable. So, since the first mate of the Storstad says he saw the Empress start to head across his ship’s path, he should have ordered his own ship to stop. Lack of communication between the two ships is also a cause of the collision.

Captain Kendall “later remembered” he knew about the other ship but thought it was far enough away so that he could pass in front of it safely. His error could also have been a cause of this tragedy.

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