**Into the Dark Water**

**Directions:** Over the course of three days, you are expected to read the article “Into the Dark Water” and complete the choice board below.

**Day 1:** Read the text, “Into the Dark Water.” While reading, underline **TWO** details from the text that you found **interesting.** Highlight/Circle **ONE** detail that best states the **central idea of the entire text.** After reading the entire text, go back and **answer the questions** that are written on the **right side (margin) of your paper.** Your answers should be written in **complete sentences.**

**Day 2:** Select **ONE** activity from the **Vocabulary** section AND **ONE** activity from the **Comprehension** section of your Choice Board. This should be completed **on your own paper!**

**Day 3:** **Answer the writing prompt provided.** Select **ONE** of the writing techniques from the **Writing section** of your Choice Board to include in your response. This can be completed on the same paper you used the day before.

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### 6th Grade ELA Choice Board

Choose one activity from each column--vocabulary, writing, & comprehension.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary</th>
<th>Comprehension</th>
<th>Writing</th>
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| **Option 1:** Select **FIVE** challenging vocabulary words from the text. Create a “hollyword” square vocabulary chart for **each of your 5 vocabulary words.** Be sure to include the definition, synonyms, examples, non-examples, and a picture or symbol to represent the word. | **Option 1:** Create/draw a **plot diagram** to review the **main events** of the story. Write **one sentence** to describe each part of the plot. Be sure to include all of the plot parts-- *exposition, rising action, climax, falling action,* and **resolution.** | **Writing Prompt:** The story of the Titanic lives on because it is an important historical event. Similarly, we are living through a time of historical significance right now during the Covid-19 crisis. Imagine what you would tell your future children or grandchildren about your experience. Write a personal narrative using one or more of the author’s craft techniques described below. (3 paragraphs minimum)

**Choice 1:** Sensory Details are descriptive words that appeal to one or more of the reader's five **senses** (sight, smell, touch, taste, hear) to help bring the story to life. Include at least **5 sensory details** in your writing.

**Examples from the text:**

Instead of writing-- *Jack thought the stars were very bright.*

The author wrote “The stars were
Option 2: Create a Story Pyramid to summarize the main events.

1. **Top line:** one word for the main character (their name)
2. **Second line:** two words to describe the main character (character traits)
3. **Third line:** three words to describe the setting
4. **Fourth line:** four words that state the main problem/conflict
5. **Fifth line:** five words to describe the first main event in the story
6. **Sixth line:** six words to describe the second main event in the story
7. **Seventh line:** seven words to describe the third main event in the story
8. **Eighth line:** eight words that state the solution/resolution

**Example:**

Katniss

strong female
districts and Capitol
fighting for her life

must win the Hunger Games
she must decide who she loves
no one can know her real feelings

winning the games frees herself, not her heart

Option 3: Write an objective summary (5 sentences) for this article. Be sure to include the title, author, and genre.

**Remember: 5Ws 1 H**

**Who:**

**What:**

**When:**

**Where:**

**Why:**

**How:**

**Example:**

Hobbled

Hobbled means to walk in an awkward way.

**Example:**

Choice 2: Personification is when an author describes or talks about a nonhuman object or animal as if it were human. In “Into the Dark Water” the author uses personification to villainize (to make an enemy) the iceberg that sank the Titanic. Include at least 5 examples of personification in your writing.

Examples from the text:

“They all wanted to see the object that had dared interrupt the voyage of the great Titanic.”

“The iceberg’s jagged fingers had clawed through the steel hull.”

Choice 3: Suspense is an anxious or uncertain feeling caused by not knowing what will happen. We know what will happen to the Titanic from the very first sentence—and from history. But as the tragedy unfolds, Jack doesn’t know what will happen to the ship, his family, or himself. The author uses suspense to make us feel Jack’s uncertainty. Include at least 5 examples of suspense in your writing.

Examples from the text:

The engines stopped, and for a moment, there was a quiet that was ‘startling and disturbing.’

“The Titanic will sink,” Andrews said. ‘We have one hour.’

“Jack and Milton were on their own.”
Into the Dark Water
by Lauren Tarshis

Jack Thayer, 17, was on the voyage of a lifetime. But then disaster struck. As the Titanic began to sink, he was separated from his parents and lost almost all hope for survival.

In just a few hours, the Titanic would be at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. Some 1,517 people—men, women, and children—would be dead. Yet at 11:00 that evening, April 14, 1912, there was not the slightest hint of doom in the air. Jack Thayer, 17, had come outside to admire the brilliant sky before going to bed. The stars were shining so brightly that they reminded Jack of diamonds. The ocean was perfectly calm. All was quiet except for the steady hum of the ship’s engines and the whistle of a gentle breeze.

“IT was the kind of night,” Jack would later recall, “that made one glad to be alive.”

Indeed, this bright and curious boy from Philadelphia had much to feel glad about. He and his parents were returning from a two-month trip to Europe. Everywhere Jack looked, he saw signs of a fast-changing world—a world made brighter by new electric lights, made faster by motorcars and steam engines, made safer by breakthroughs in science and engineering. And perhaps nothing on Earth embodied these changes more perfectly than the Titanic itself—the biggest, most elegant, most technologically advanced ship ever built. How lucky Jack felt to be on its first transatlantic voyage.

Even the Thayers, a family of wealth and privilege, were dazzled by the ship’s grandeur. Their large first-class cabins were as lavish as rooms in the finest European hotels. There was an array of luxurious amenities, many of which had never been offered on a ship before. There was a swimming pool with heated ocean water and an exercise room staffed with a professional trainer. Savory meals were served on dishes etched with 22-karat gold.

Jack, with his dapper wool suit and worldly confidence, mingled easily with the tycoons and power brokers he met in the first-class salon and dining rooms. He especially enjoyed his conversations with Thomas Andrews, the designer of the Titanic. Andrews was modest by nature, but he couldn’t deny that the Titanic’s maiden voyage was a magnificent success. In three days, the ship was due to arrive in New York to great fanfare.

“Unsinkable”

It was almost 11:30 when Jack went back to his cabin, which was next to his parents’ suite. He called good night to his mother and father. Just as he was about to get into bed, he swayed slightly. He realized the ship had veered to the left—as though she had been gently pushed,” he would later say.

The engines stopped, and for a moment, there was a quiet that was “startling and disturbing.” Then Jack heard muffled voices and running footsteps. He threw on his overcoat and slippers, told his parents he was going to see what was happening, and rushed outside. Soon he was joined by a crowd of first-class passengers, including his father. Jack wasn’t worried. Indeed, there was a mood of adventure, especially after word spread that the ship had struck an iceberg. The men in the crowd joked and puffed on cigars as they craned their necks and squinted into the dark night. They all wanted to see the audacious object that had dared interrupt the voyage of the great Titanic.

“Nobody yet thought of any serious trouble,” Jack would recall. “The ship was unsinkable.”

That’s certainly what most people believed: that the Titanic’s state-of-the-art safety features—15 watertight compartments to contain flooding—would keep the ship afloat no matter what. So it was with no sense of urgency that Jack and his father roamed the ship, trying to find out when they would again be under way.

But then Jack and his father saw Andrews standing with several of the ship’s officers. Andrews’s grave expression sent a stab of fear through Jack’s heart. If anyone understood the truth about the Titanic’s plight, it was the man who knew the ship inside and out. And the truth was dire. The iceberg’s jagged fingers had clawed through the steel hull. Water was gushing into the ship’s lower levels.

“The Titanic will sink,” Andrews said. “We have one hour.” That, though, was only half of the horrifying story. As Jack would soon learn, the Titanic had only 20 lifeboats, enough for about half of the passengers and crew members.
The Titanic was 800 miles from New York. The temperature of the ocean was 28°F. Immerged in water that cold, a human body goes into shock almost immediately. The heart slows. The skin begins to freeze. Death comes within 60 minutes. Paragraph 12

For those who couldn’t escape by lifeboat, there was almost no hope of survival. Paragraph 13

Lost in the Crowd

Jack put on a warm wool suit and a sweater. He tied on his life preserver and slipped into his overcoat, then rushed back up to the deck with his parents. What they found was confusion and deafening noise—people shouting, distress rockets being fired into the air. Jack was with his parents and his mother’s maid, Margaret Fleming. They were soon joined by a young man named Milton Long, whom Jack had befriended at dinner earlier that night. The group made their way through the ship, hoping to find a lifeboat. Paragraph 14

Suddenly they were in the middle of a surging crowd of panicked passengers. To Jack’s horror, he and Milton were separated from his parents and Margaret. He searched desperately but could not find them. He became convinced that they had all boarded a lifeboat, leaving him behind. And there were no lifeboats left. Paragraph 15

Jack and Milton were on their own. Amid the noise and panic, the screams and shouts and explosions, Jack and Milton tried to bolster each other’s courage as the ship continued to sink. “I sincerely pitied myself,” Jack said, “but we did not give up hope.” Paragraph 16

They determined that their best chance for survival was to wait until the ship was low enough in the water that they could jump in without injuring themselves. Paragraph 17

That moment came at about 2:15 a.m. The ship lurched forward, its bow plunging deeper into the black waters of the Atlantic. Jack and Milton shook hands and wished each other luck. Paragraph 18

Milton went first, climbing over the railing and sliding down the side of the ship. Jack would never see him again. Jack threw off his overcoat and, he later said, “with a push of my arms and hands, jumped into the water as far out from the ship as I could. . . . Down, down I went, spinning in all directions.” Paragraph 19

He struggled to the surface, gasping from the cold, his lungs near to bursting. He had been floating for only a few minutes when one of the ship’s enormous funnels broke free. In a shower of sparks and black smoke, it crashed into the water just 20 feet from Jack. The suction pulled him under the water once again. This time he barely made it back up. Paragraph 20

But as he surfaced, his hand hit something—an overturned lifeboat. Four men were balancing on its flat bottom. One of them helped Jack up. From there, they watched the Titanic in its final agonizing moments—the stern rising high into the sky, hundreds of people dropping into the sea, the lights finally going out. Paragraph 21

Then, in a moment of eerie quiet, the ship disappeared into the sea. The silence was broken by the first plaintive cries for help. People—hundreds of them—were scattered everywhere in the water, kept aloft by their life vests. The individual cries became a continuous wailing chant of terror and pain and desperation, Jack said. Paragraph 22

Over the next few minutes, he and the others on the lifeboat managed to pull 24 men out of the water alive. The group was “packed like sardines” on the boat, their arms and legs tangled together. Freezing waves washed over them. Nobody moved for fear of slipping into the water. Little by little, the terrible wailing faded. Floating in the silent blackness, numb with cold and fear, Jack waited for death. Paragraph 23

But then came a light—at 4:30 a.m., a ship called the Carpathia broke through the darkness. Its captain had received the Titanic’s distress call and rushed his ship through the icy waters. Among the first faces Jack saw when he boarded the rescue ship was his mother’s. Margaret was also aboard. The joy of their reunion was overwhelming—but so was the shock when Jack’s mother asked a simple question. Paragraph 24

“Where is your father?” As it turned out, Mr. Thayer had not left on a lifeboat. Paragraph 25

“Of course, I should have known that he would never have left without me,” Jack said. Paragraph 26

The Carpathia, carrying the Titanic’s 705 grief-stricken survivors, docked in New York City on April 18 and was greeted by a crowd of 30,000 people. Jack and his mother then returned to Philadelphia. Jack went on to marry, had two sons, and attained a powerful position at the University of Pennsylvania. Years later, he wrote his own account of the sinking of the Titanic—dedicated to his father’s memory. Paragraph 27