

Junior  
Certificate  
School  
Programme

# The Spirit of the Titanic

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# The Spirit of the Titanic

## Prologue

1. When does the story begin?
2. What is the name of the shipyard where the Titanic was built?
3. Where do the workmates meet each morning before the start of the shift?
4. What is Samuel's role on the rivet squad?
5. What does Samuel think caused the flash of colour or movement that caught his eye on the ladder?
6. Who heard Samuel's call for help?
7. Why does Samuel let go of the ladder?
8. Why does the author let the main character die at the start of the book?

### Activity: Dictionary Work

Find the meaning of the following words:

Prologue: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Illustrator: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Character: \_\_\_\_\_

Plot: \_\_\_\_\_

Setting: \_\_\_\_\_

Scene: \_\_\_\_\_

Index: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Spirit of the Titanic

## Chapter One

1. Why has Samuel's wish come true?
2. Who replaced Samuel at the shipyard?
3. What happened to Charlie's hair in the weeks after Samuel's death?
4. What emotions do the shipyard workers feel as the Titanic leaves Belfast?
5. Name the three places the Titanic sails to after leaving Belfast.
6. What does the name Samuel mean?
7. Why was it strange for Samuel's grandfather to tell him he was a "good boy"?
8. At the end of the chapter, the author uses the phrase "brand new" twice. Why does she do this?

### **Activity: Art Work**

Draw a picture of the Titanic leaving Belfast on its maiden voyage. Try to include the crowds and some of Samuel's workmates in the picture.



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## Chapters Two and Three

1. What are the first names of Jim's wife and his children?
2. What joined the ship in Cork as well as new passengers?
3. Why do the traders target the American tourists to buy their goods?
4. What do the two stewards plan to eat and drink after sweeping the decks?
5. Who has the worst job on the ship?
6. Where is Samuel's favourite part of the ship?
7. How did the two sisters, Maggie and Kate, trick their parents into believing they were not sailing on the Titanic?
8. Why is Jim's family running away to America?

### Activity: Job Descriptions

There are lots of people working on the Titanic. Begin to create a list of the different job types. Use a dictionary to help you with new words and add new job details as you read further into the book.

Job Title	Duties	Where is the job located on the ship? (If known)

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## Chapter Four

1. What is the cost of a first class ticket?
2. What is the name of the ship's captain?
3. Why do Maggie and Kate choose to wait until they reach their sister's house in America before taking a bath?
4. Why is the engineer, Mr Andrews, a favourite amongst his employees?
5. How many people did Mr Andrews bring with him as part of the 'Guarantee Group' and what is their role?
6. Samuel describes the ship as an island. What examples does he use to support this image?
7. How do we know the captain is not happy about Mr Andrews joining his table in the dining room?
8. Why are the Post Office workers "free to indulge" in practical jokes?

### Activity: Letter Writing

Write a postcard to a friend in Ireland telling them about your journey on the Titanic.

Place Stamp Here

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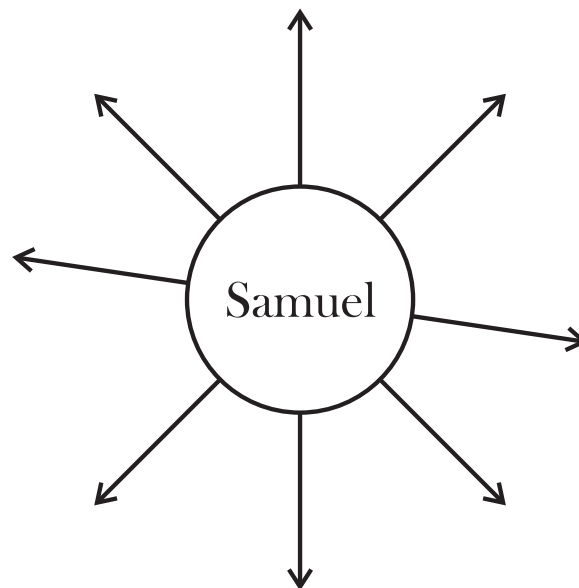
# The Spirit of the Titanic

## Chapter Five

1. What is the job of the Marconi operators?
2. Why are the first class passengers the only ones to use the service?
3. Why is it important to fix the faulty transmitter?
4. How does the baker sense he is being followed?
5. What metaphors does the baker use to compare the Titanic to a human body?
6. What musical instrument does Wallace play?
7. Why couldn't Jack have been dreaming when he heard the voices?
8. What is your answer to Samuel's question, "What on earth did it mean?"?

### Activity: Graphic Organiser

Write eight facts we know about Samuel.





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## Chapters Six and Seven

1. Whose birthday are the postal workers celebrating?
2. Why are small icebergs called growlers?
3. Give three reasons why the lookouts could not see the iceberg.
4. What had Charlie said about the rivets used to build the bow of the ship?
5. What signs does Mr Andrews, the ship's designer, display to show he is concerned?
6. What is the design fault with the partition walls?
7. According to Mr Andrews, how much time is left before the ship sinks?
8. Why does the captain need to rely on other ships to rescue the passengers?

### Activity: Character Analysis

This chart will help you keep track of some of the characters in the book.

Name of character	Page character first appears on	Notes on the character
Samuel		
Jim		
Captain Edward Smith		
Mr Andrews		
Jack Phillips		
Charles		
Wallace		
Fred		

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## Chapters Eight and Nine

1. Whom is Fred told to report to?
2. Why is Fred told to row the lifeboat as fast as possible?
3. Whom does Officer Lightoller blame for hitting the iceberg and what would he have done differently?
4. What is the significance of the water reaching the engine room?
5. What is the name of the nearest ship to the Titanic?
6. Why are the passengers reluctant to board the lifeboats?
7. What has Charles rescued from the water?
8. Why does the author include the story about the chick and the mother bird at the end of chapter nine?

### Activity: The 'Five Ws'

Write about the reasons the ship sank. Remember to write in full sentences.

<b>Who?</b>	
<b>What?</b>	
<b>When?</b>	
<b>Where?</b>	
<b>Why?</b>	

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## Chapters Ten and Eleven

1. Where is the band playing now?
2. Why are the crew only letting women and children on the lifeboats?
3. What age is the boy and why at first is he not allowed to board the lifeboat?
4. Why does Samuel think Captain Smith is not carrying out his responsibilities?
5. Why do the third class passengers want to take their luggage with them?
6. How does Samuel encourage Jim's family to follow him?
7. Who were Samuel's new friends after his father died?
8. Why was Samuel angry with his mother?

**Activity: Point of View**

Samuel's mother is an important character in the book even though she is only mentioned briefly in the story. Write a short piece about her relationship with Samuel from her point of view.

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Word Puzzle

There are fifteen words from the book in this word puzzle. Can you find them all?

W H C C Q Q F P D U H C B U N  
 T U X H Z P G R P I B A E M E  
 I A E H A E A A K R M R D A W  
 C E O L X Y S D B B O P Y N H  
 E H N B P S C O T I T A N I C  
 B N S I E D F A N P F T W Q N  
 E Q H N L F O O P C Z H E L M  
 R S G A I O I O E T W I R V F  
 G E R C U L I L S K A A C C T  
 R H E B O W D V A I X I I U I  
 J R E N I G N E C U Z E N K S  
 O J D S Z G H G T S Y Q C W Z  
 S T U O K O O L I D J E Z A L  
 S T T H F F U G U M D J P D Y  
 U A X W L V K V S O W N C Z B

BOW  
 CAPTAIN  
 CARPATHIA  
 CREW  
 DECK

ENGINE  
 ICEBERG  
 LIFEBOAT  
 LOOKOUTS  
 OFFICER

PASSENGER  
 SHIPYARD  
 SUITCASE  
 TITANIC  
 VIOLIN

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Chapters Twelve and Thirteen

- 1. Why is Joseph scared?
2. Where are the rest of the third class passengers?
3. What instructions does Jim give Isobel before boarding the lifeboat?
4. What is the name of the elderly waiter?
5. Where does Jim leave his suitcase?
6. Why does Dr O'Loughlin choose to stay behind?
7. What does Charles do to help the passengers in the water?
8. Why couldn't Captain Smith tell the Marconi operators that their, 'Parents would have been proud of them'?

Activity: Diary Entry

Imagine you are a member of the crew. Write about the night the Titanic sank as you tried to persuade the passengers to board the lifeboats.

Lined area for writing a diary entry.

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## Chapters Fourteen and Fifteen

1. Who tried to steal Jack's lifejacket?
2. What is the waiter looking for behind the bar?
3. Why did an American businessman cancel his ticket for the Titanic?
4. What does Mr Andrews whisper to Samuel?
5. How is Officer Lightoller's prayer answered?
6. Where is Captain Smith when the Titanic goes down?
7. Who lets the crew know that Jim is still alive in the water?
8. How is Samuel saved?

### Activity: Point of View

You are one of survivors of the Titanic and have arrived safely in America. Write a message to your parents or friend letting them know what has happened. Write the message in full first and then abbreviate (shorten) it as each word costs \$1 to send in a telegram.

### Full message

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### Short Message

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## Reflections on the Novel

Write a review of this novel explaining what you liked/disliked about it and why you would/would not recommend it to a friend.

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Marks out of ten: \_\_\_\_\_

Who is/are your favourite character/s? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What was the story about? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Did you like the book? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Would you recommend this book to your friends? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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3-2-1

Based on your reading of the novel fill in the 3-2-1 worksheet with the following information

- Three things you found out
- Two interesting things you noticed
- One question you still have

3	Things I found out
2	Interesting things
1	Question I still have



# The Spirit of the Titanic

## Research

Search the internet to find information about the author, Nicola Pierce.

- Find out 3 interesting facts about the author.
- Does the author talk about her book?
- Name other books written by Nicole Pierce.
- What kinds of websites mention the author?

Look at the publisher's website

- Does the website give any information about the novel/author?
- Are there any reading guides for the novel on the website?

Search the internet for further information on the Titanic. You might find the following sites useful:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RMS\\_Titanic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RMS_Titanic)

<http://www.encyclopedia-titanica.org/>

<http://www.the-titanic.com/>

