

PRACTICE



Rogue Wave

You just watched a video about building background in “Rogue Wave.” Now briefly review what that video covered. Then complete the activities below to practice building background.

Building Background

Some stories may have many words you don’t know. In “Rogue Wave,” there are a lot of sailing terms. These terms are examples of specialized vocabulary, or words used for a specific subject or activity. Use a dictionary to help you learn these unfamiliar terms.

Build background by learning specialized vocabulary in a story. Finding out about these words can help you

- learn more about a specific topic, and
- better understand what is going on in the story.

EXAMPLE: The specialized vocabulary in these lines helps the reader visualize where the characters are located and what dangerous situations they face.

- on a northerly course about **fifteen miles off desolate Cabo Colnett, south of Ensenada.**
- Below **deck**, Scoot was listening to Big Sandy & His Fly-Rite Boys . . .
- The three horizontal **hatch** boards that were on top of the doors were also firmly in place, . . .
- It was coming from a four-inch **porthole** that had not been **dogged** securely . . .

The specific terms in the first example explain the location of the characters. The other three examples help you become familiar with specific sailing terms.

Speaking and Listening

With a partner, look up the following terms in a dictionary. Discuss the meanings and decide which meanings match the sailing terms used in “Rogue Wave.”

1. port
2. bow
3. stern
4. hull
5. keel

Checklist for your discussion:

- ☐ Both partners must participate.
- ☐ Take turns sharing your thoughts and impressions.
- ☐ Listen attentively when your partner is speaking.

Writing

Write a paragraph or two about a made-up sailing adventure you had. To help your reader visualize where you were and what you did on your adventure, use specific sailing terms such as the ones in “Rogue Wave.” Then exchange paragraphs with another student. Discuss the sailing terms each of you used. Does the specialized vocabulary you used help the reader visualize an exciting adventure?

Checklist for your writing:

- ☐ Use specialized sailing terms you learned about in “Rogue Wave.”
- ☐ Check your dictionary to make sure you are spelling and using the words correctly.
- ☐ The details you include should help readers understand the excitement of your imagined adventure.
