CHAPTER 13

Vocabulary: Identify vocabulary using context clues:

1. **Contemptuously** – “You’re a girl,” Dillingham spat out *contemptuously.*
   Your Guess: _________________________________________________
   Actual Definition: ___________________________________________

2. **Audacity** – “Having fully committed myself, I was overwhelmed by my audacity.”
   Your Guess: _________________________________________________
   Actual Definition: ___________________________________________

3. **Grotesque** – “Now the full folly of what I was attempting burst upon me with grotesque reality. It had been not only stupid, but suicidal.”
   Your Guess: _________________________________________________
   Actual Definition: ___________________________________________

4. **Caucus** – “Foley came to his feet. ‘All right then. I'll go caucus the others.’ Out he went.”
   Your Guess: _________________________________________________
   Actual Definition: ___________________________________________

Analyze and interpret literature:

1. In this chapter, Charlotte attempts to climb to the royal yard. What is her motive in doing so? How does that action impact her relationship with the crew?
2. Predict how Captain Jaggery will react to Charlotte’s decision to join the crew.

3. Recall details:
   a. How high was the mainmast? 
   b. List the four sails that it supported from top to bottom.
      (top) 
      
      
      
      (bottom)

Figurative Language:

**Personification:** giving human or lifelike qualities to something that is not human.

In this chapter, Avi uses personification to describe the ship and sea, among other things. For example, “*And when I looked beyond, I saw a sea that was infinity itself, ready, eager, to swallow me whole.*” What two qualities make this an example of personification? How does it add to the description of the sea?

Review: Identify the figurative language in each of the following sentences.

1. “His skin was like rough leather... like an animal.”

2. “In contrast, the *Seahawk* struck me as having suddenly grown smaller. The more I saw of her, the *less* she was.”

3. “My head felt light, my heart an anvil.”

4. “But there the metronome motion of the mast was at its most extreme, the *Seahawk* turning, tossing, swaying as if trying to shake me off—like a dog throwing droplets of water from its back.”

5. “Each groping step downward was a nightmare.”
CHAPTER 14

Vocabulary: Identify vocabulary using context clues:

1. Raucous—“No sooner had he done so than the crew—though not Mr. hollybrass—let out another raucous cheer!”
   Your Guess: ________________________________
   Actual Definition: ____________________________

2. Thwarting—“Whatever grievous errors I had made before—in thwarting the mutiny led by Cranick and in causing the resulting cruelty toward Zachariah—the sailors appeared to accept my change of heart and position without reservation.”
   Your Guess: ________________________________
   Actual Definition: ____________________________

3. Atonement & Rebuff—“They saw my desire to become a crew member not only as atonement, but also as a stinging rebuff to Captain Jaggery.”
   Atonement Guess: ____________________________
   Actual Definition: ____________________________
   Rebuff Guess: ________________________________
   Actual Definition: ____________________________

4. Shirk—“You may believe me too when I say that I shirked no work.”
   Your Guess: ________________________________
   Actual Definition: ____________________________

5. Liberated—“And there I was, joyous, new-made, liberated from a prison I’d thought was my proper place!”
   Your Guess: ________________________________
   Actual Definition: ____________________________
The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle

Analyze and interpret literature:

1. Explain how Charlotte is being treated by the crew now.

2. Describe how Charlotte’s daily life upon the Seahawk has changed. Include some specific duties that she has and physical changes she’s experienced.

3. How have Charlotte’s attitude and feelings changed in this chapter? Include a page # and paragraph # that help to support how she feels about her new role.

4. What do you think Keetch means when he says “Hollybrass is glove to Jaggery’s hand?”

5. Why is the Captain watching Charlotte even more carefully now? What “mistake” does she make that puts her in danger and causes Jaggery to slap her?
Analyzing Literary Devices:

**Symbolism:** In literature, when one object, person, or place represents or stands for something else (a deeper meaning). An example of a symbol in the United States is the bald eagle which represents freedom, liberty, strength, etc.

What do you think the **blood bird** at the end of this chapter could symbolize?

What could Charlotte’s new clothing and “names” symbolize?

**Comic Relief:** a humorous scene placed between serious or tragic scenes. This device allows an author to lighten the tone of the novel and to heighten the seriousness of the theme by contrast.

At the end of chapter 14, Barlow provides comic relief when he compares how Jaggery plans on using the hurricane to move the *Seahawk* to what would happen when using different amounts of “shot” or ammunition in a cannon. Explain this comparison in your own words.

**Be an Active Reader:**

**Predict:** Based on the symbols and foreshadowing at the end of this chapter, make a valid prediction about the upcoming chapters.
Vocabulary: Read the sentences using the new vocabulary words. Then, try to match the new words to their corresponding definitions.

1. **Pitched**—“Even as the cry came, the *Seahawk* pitched and yawed violently. Whether I got out of my hammock on my own, or was tossed by the wrenching motion of the ship, to this day I do not know.”

2. **Asunder**—“But I woke to find myself sprawling on the floor, the curtain torn *asunder*, the forecastle in wildest confusion.”

3. **Flounder**—“I was certain the *Seahawk* would *flounder*, that we were doomed to drown.”

4. **Maelstrom**—“Human cries came too, shouts that rose up through the *maelstrom*, words that I couldn’t catch.”

5. **Impeding**—“The wind and rain—as well as the tossing motion of the ship—kept *impeding* me.”

6. **Abated**—“I don’t know if the storm had somewhat *abated* or I’d just grown used to it.”

7. **Ebbing**—“Whatever strength I’d had was fast *ebbing*.”

8. **Equanimity**—“Within seconds I slept the sleep of the dead who wait—with perfect *equanimity*—upon the final judgment.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Definitions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pitch</td>
<td>A. a powerful whirlpool; violent, turbulent situation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>asunder</td>
<td>B. to obstruct; to hinder; to slow progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flounder</td>
<td>C. to diminish or reduce in intensity or amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maelstrom</td>
<td>D. to plunge, fall, lurch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>impede</td>
<td>E. to struggle; have difficulties; lose balance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abate</td>
<td>F. into separate parts or pieces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ebb</td>
<td>G. calmness; even-tempered; composure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>equanimity</td>
<td>H. to flow back; to decline; fade away</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle

Part Two

Analyze and interpret literature:

1. Recall details: During the hurricane, Charlotte is rescued from a potentially devastating fall by a hero who surprises her. Who is it?

2. About halfway through the chapter, Charlotte believes that the storm is over. What is really happening at that time? What discovery is made during that time?

3. What evidence links Charlotte to the crime that has seemingly been committed?

5. Infer: What do you think happened? Who do you think is responsible and why?

6. Predict: What do you think will happen as a result of this major development?

Figurative Language

In this chapter, Avi uses figurative language to describe the storm and to add to the mood, suspense, and imagery.

Record and label (e.g., simile, personification) three examples of figurative language.

1. ___________________________________________________________

2. ___________________________________________________________

3. ___________________________________________________________
CHAPTER 16

Vocabulary: Identify vocabulary using context clues:

1. **Blithely**—“No matter what the circumstances, it’s irregular for any member of a crew to be allowed to sleep so long. For the moment, however, I remained in my hammock, **blithely** assuming it was simply not yet time for my normal watch.”
   
   Your Guess: __________________________________________________________________________
   
   Actual Definition: ____________________________________________________________________

2. **Fastidiousness**—“...the jacket was soiled and showed... rips. A cuff was frayed, a button gone. Small points perhaps, but not for a man of his **fastidiousness**.”
   
   Your Guess: __________________________________________________________________________

   Actual Definition: ____________________________________________________________________

3. **Commence**—“Miss Doyle, your trial for murder will **commence** at the first bell of the first dog watch today.”
   
   Atonement Guess: _____________________________________________________________________
   
   Actual Definition: ____________________________________________________________________

Analyze and interpret literature:

1. Why do you think that the crew turned against Charlotte and believed what Captain Jaggery said about her being a murderer? What motive do they think she had to commit the crime?

   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   
   ___________________________________________________________________________________

2. Although the ship as a whole is considered a brig, there is also a part of the ship called the brig. Describe it with sensory details.

   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
CHAPTER 17

Analyze and interpret literature:

1. Who does Charlotte find in the brig and how did he come to be there?

2. Why does Charlotte feel that the person from #1 would be unsuccessful in reporting Captain Jaggery to the authorities once in Providence?

3. Who does Charlotte think killed Mr. Hollybrass and why? Include her reasoning for both motive and opportunity.

4. Why does Charlotte think that the crew wants to believe that she (Charlotte) is the guilty person?

5. The name Zachariah refers to a "prophet" in the Bible. In this chapter, an earlier statement of Zachariah's was brought up as being a "prophecy." What was it?

Does this idea of a "prophet" affect the way that you view his advice? How?
CHAPTER 18

Vocabulary: Identify vocabulary using context clues:

1. Portentously—"Teaching her to use a knife?" the captain repeated portentously."  
   Your Guess: ___________________________________________  
   Actual Definition: ________________________________________

Analyze and interpret literature:

1. What was the "generosity" that Jaggery extends to Charlotte?
   __________________________________________________________

2. The Captain claims repeatedly throughout the trial that Charlotte’s behavior has been "unnatural" while on the Seahawk. List specific examples of this "unnatural" behavior according to the Captain.  
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

2. Why is the point that Charlotte is "unnatural" so important to the Captain?  
   Consider the impact that the idea has on the crew as well as to how the Captain will be able to justify his actions after landing in Providence.  
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

3. If YOU were a defense attorney for Charlotte at this trial, how would you have defended her? What points would you have made to support her innocence?  
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
CHAPTER 19

Vocabulary: Identify vocabulary using context clues:

1. Shrewdly—"Something in my voice must have alerted him. He scrutinized me shrewdly. ‘Miss Doyle, why are you calling me Mister Zachariah?’"
   Your Guess: ______________________________
   Actual Definition: ______________________________

2. Solemnity—"Charlotte,' he said with the utmost solemnity, 'I did not kill Mr. Hollybrass.'"
   Your Guess: ______________________________
   Actual Definition: ______________________________

3. Apparition—"When—after the storm—he did nothing, I decided that was exactly what he thought: that I was an apparition."
   Your Guess: ______________________________
   Actual Definition: ______________________________

Analyze and interpret literature:

1. What did Zachariah mean when he said, "There’s an old seaman’s saying, ‘the Devil will tie any knot, save the hangman’s noose. That Jack does for himself.’"?
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

2. Why did Charlotte and Zachariah start addressing each other more formally?
   (Mister Zachariah and Miss Doyle) ______________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
3. Does the Captain still believe that Zachariah is dead? Why or why not?

4. At the end of the chapter, Zachariah and Charlotte think of the beginnings of a plan to save Charlotte and overtake Jaggery. What do you think they will try to do?

Do you think they will be successful? Why or why not?
CHAPTER 20

Analyze and interpret literature:

1. Who was the crew member that Zachariah brought down to the brig to discuss their plan and why did his identity make Charlotte feel unsettled?

2. Was Charlotte's earlier hypothesis about the crew and the reason that they were willing to believe that Charlotte was a murderer correct? Why did they believe it?

3. As Charlotte moves through the ship to Jaggery's quarters, the noise of her old cabin door banging closed in the wind sparked a memory that kept her frozen in place in fear. Look back in the beginning of the book, whose voices had she heard outside her cabin that first night onboard and what were they saying?

4. What is the cliffhanger at the end of this chapter? Predict what will happen next.
CHAPTER 21

Vocabulary: Identify vocabulary using context clues:

1. Meddle—"But you, Miss Doyle, you interfered with that order. You presumed to meddle where you had no right."
Your Guess: ____________________________
Actual Definition: _______________________

2. Renounce — "Resume your place and station. Publicly renounce your ways, beg for mercy before the crew, and I—you have my word—I will grant it."
Your Guess: ____________________________
Actual Definition: _______________________

3. Slander — "Do you wish to put into port and have this girl spread the slander that she, a girl, took command of this ship, took over each and every one of you and told you what to do?"
Your Guess: ____________________________
Actual Definition: _______________________

Analyze and interpret literature:

1. Who was the "snitch" that thwarted Charlotte's plan? Why was this not surprising when considering all the events and words throughout the voyage?

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
2. What reason did Captain Jaggery provide for despising Charlotte? How does he justify killing her?

3. Describe what Charlotte sees in the Captain’s cabin that it was previously too dark to notice. What does this tell you about Jaggery’s state of mind?

4. Why did the argument with Mr. Hollybrass provoke Captain Jaggery to violence?

5. What three choices does Jaggery offer Charlotte in regards to her future?
6. What dramatic event occurs at the site of the ship’s figurehead at the end of this chapter? ____________________________________________________________

In the first chapter, the figurehead reminded Charlotte of an “avenging angel.” How does its appearance in this chapter support that interpretation?

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Figurative Language

Read the following comparison:

*The suspicion became rather like an invisible rope that restrained me.*

What type of figurative language is in this sentence? ________________________

What two things are being compared? (underline them)

How does this comparison help you to understand Charlotte’s feelings?

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________
CHAPTER 22

Vocabulary: Identify vocabulary using context clues:

1. Niceties—"...the fact that I was the daughter of an officer in the company that owned the Seahawk was no small factor in my formal elevation (to captain). It would preserve the niceties."
   Your Guess: ________________________________
   Actual Definition: ___________________________

2. Melancholia — "There was much rejoicing among the crew... As for me, I found myself plunged into instant, and to me, inexplicable melancholia."
   Your Guess: ________________________________
   Actual Definition: ___________________________

3. Morosely — "He'd discovered me up at the fore-peak, morosely watching the sea and the coast toward which we were drawing ever closer."
   Your Guess: ________________________________
   Actual Definition: ___________________________

4. Sober — "It's well known that sailors have an unhealthy tendency toward exaggeration. I look forward to reading a more sober account in your journal."
   Your Guess: ________________________________
   Actual Definition: ___________________________

Analyze and interpret literature:

1. What does the phrase "...captain in name perhaps, but not in practice" mean?
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle

2. How were the deaths of the Captain and Hollybrass recorded in the log? Why?

3. What expression did Zachariah use to describe how the owners of the ship will react to these two deaths? Explain it.

4. Find at least 3 sentences from this chapter that provide clues as to Charlotte's family's personality and lifestyle. Record them here and then summarize your ideas.
5. How does Charlotte’s father react to her journal writings? What word does he use to describe her and what “punishment” does he bestow on her?

6. How does Charlotte feel in her home? What decision do her feelings prompt her to make at the end of the novel?

7. Do you think Charlotte made the right decision? Explain.

8. Explain Zachariah’s advice: “A sailor chooses the wind that takes the ship from a safe port. Ah, yes, but once you’re abroad, as you have seen, winds have a mind of their own. Be careful, Charlotte, careful of the wind you choose.”
Active Reading

*The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* Chapters 16–22

Earlier in the novel, Charlotte tells Captain Jaggery that he reminds her of her father. At that point in the book, the similarities between the two men give Charlotte comfort. In chapters 16–22, Charlotte realizes that her father also resembles the Captain Jaggery whom Charlotte has learned to fear. Use the Venn diagram to compare and contrast the two men. In the space in which the circles overlap, write characteristics the men share. In the other areas, write characteristics they do not share.
POST-READING ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. This two-part novel has a double plot structure, which can be represented in this way:

   - **Part I**
     - 1. Beginning of novel
     - 2. Rising Action
     - 3. Crisis
     - 4. Falling Action
     - 5. Beginning of Part II

   - **Part II**
     - 6. Rising Action
     - 7. Crisis
     - 8. Falling Action
     - 9. End of Novel

Using the numbers on the chart, label the following incidents to show where each occurred in the plot.

   - a. Charlotte is tried and found guilty of murder.
   - b. Charlotte is frightened by a carved head.
   - c. The captain dies attempting to throw Charlotte overboard.
   - d. Mr. Hollybrass is found murdered.
   - e. Charlotte returns to the *Seahawk*.
   - f. Charlotte injures the captain, who then beats Zachariah.
   - g. Charlotte’s father confines her to her room.
   - h. Charlotte begs the captain’s forgiveness.
   - i. A porter runs away from the ship.
   - j. Charlotte climbs to the top of the royal yard.
   - k. Charlotte is named captain of the ship.
   - l. Charlotte has tea with the captain.

2. The behavior of Charlotte, her family, the captain, and the crew reflected their positions in the social structure of 1832. Although much of what they said, thought, and did seems foreign to us today, do you think the characterizations were historically accurate? Why?