

7th Grade ELA Packet

A Retrieved Reformation

IN THE PRISON SHOE-SHOP, JIMMY VALENTINE was busily at work making shoes. A prison officer came into the shop, and led Jimmy to the prison office. There Jimmy was given an important paper. It said that he was free. Jimmy took the paper without showing much pleasure or interest. He had been sent to prison to stay for four years. He had been there for ten months. But he had expected to stay only three months. Jimmy Valentine had many friends outside the prison. A man with so many friends does not expect to stay in prison long.

“Valentine,” said the chief prison officer, “you’ll go out tomorrow morning. This is your chance. Make a man of yourself. You’re not a bad fellow at heart. Stop breaking safes open, and live a better life.”

“Me?” said Jimmy in surprise. “I never broke open a safe in my life.”

“Oh, no,” the chief prison officer laughed. “Never. Let’s see. How did you happen to get sent to prison for opening that safe in Springfield? Was it because you didn’t want to tell where you really were? Perhaps because you were with some lady, and you didn’t want to tell her name?”

Or was it because the judge didn’t like you? You men always have a reason like that. You never go to prison because you broke open a safe.”

“Me?” Jimmy said. His face still showed surprise. “I was never in Springfield in my life.”

“Take him away,” said the chief prison officer. “Get him the clothes he needs for going outside. Bring him here again at seven in the morning. And think about what I said, Valentine.”

At a quarter past seven on the next morning, Jimmy stood again in the office. He had on some new clothes that did not fit him, and a pair of new shoes that hurt his feet. These are the usual clothes given to a prisoner when he leaves the prison. Next they gave him money to pay for his trip on a train to the city near the prison. They gave him five dollars more. The five dollars were supposed to help him become a better man. Then the chief prison officer put out his hand for a handshake. That was the end of Valentine, Prisoner 9762. Mr. James Valentine walked out into the sunshine.

He did not listen to the song of the birds or look at the green trees or smell the flowers. He went straight to a restaurant. There he tasted the first sweet joys of being free. He had a good dinner. After that he went to the train station. He gave some money to a blind man who sat there, asking for money, and then he got on the train.

Three hours later he got off the train in a small town. Here he went to the restaurant of Mike Dolan. Mike Dolan was alone there. After shaking hands he said, “I’m sorry we couldn’t do it sooner, Jimmy my boy. But there was that safe in Springfield, too. It wasn’t easy. Feeling all right?”

“Fine,” said Jimmy. “Is my room waiting for me?”

He went up and opened the door of a room at the back of the house. Everything was as he had left it. It was here they had found Jimmy, when they took him to prison. There on the floor was a small piece of cloth. It had been torn from the coat of the cop, as Jimmy was fighting to escape.

There was a bed against the wall. Jimmy pulled the bed toward the middle of the room. The wall behind it looked like any wall, but now Jimmy found and opened a small door in it. From this opening he pulled out a dust-covered bag.

He opened this and looked lovingly at the tools for breaking open a safe. No finer tools could be found any place. They were complete; everything needed was here. They had been made of a special material, in the necessary sizes and shapes. Jimmy had planned them himself, and he was very proud of them.

It had cost him over nine hundred dollars to have these tools made at a place where they make such things for men who work at the job of safe-breaking.

In half an hour Jimmy went downstairs and through the restaurant. He was now dressed in good clothes that fitted him well. He carried his dusted and cleaned bag.

“Do you have anything planned?” asked Mike Dolan.

“Me?” asked Jimmy as if surprised. “I don’t understand. I work for the New York Famous Bread and Cake Makers Company. And I sell the best bread and cake in the country.”

Mike enjoyed these words so much that Jimmy had to take a drink with him. Jimmy had some milk. He never drank anything stronger.

A week after Valentine, 9762, left the prison, a safe was broken open in Richmond, Indiana. No one knew who did it. Eight hundred dollars were taken.

Two weeks after that, a safe in Logansport was opened. It was a new kind of safe; it had been made, they said, so strong that no one could break it open. But someone did, and took fifteen hundred dollars.

Then a safe in Jefferson City was opened. Five thousand dollars were taken. This loss was a big one. Ben Price was a cop who worked on such important matters, and now he began to work on this.

He went to Richmond, Indiana, and to Logansport, to see how the safe-breaking had been done in those places. He was heard to say: “I can see that Jim Valentine has been here. He is in business again. Look at the way he opened this one. Everything easy, everything clean. He is the only man who has the tools to do it. And he is the only man who knows how to use tools like this. Yes, I want Mr. Valentine. Next time he goes to prison, he’s going to stay there until his time is finished.”

Ben Price knew how Jimmy worked. Jimmy would go from one city to another far away. He always worked alone. He always left quickly when he was finished. He enjoyed being with nice people. For all these reasons, it was not easy to catch Mr. Valentine.

People with safes full of money were glad to hear that Ben Price was at work trying to catch Mr. Valentine. One afternoon Jimmy Valentine and his bag arrived in a small town named Elmore. Jimmy, looking as young as a college boy, walked down the street toward the hotel.

A young lady walked across the street, passed him at the corner, and entered a door. Over the door was the sign, “The Elmore Bank.” Jimmy Valentine looked into her eyes, forgetting at once what he was. He became another man. She looked away, and brighter color came into her face. Young men like Jimmy did not appear often in Elmore.

Jimmy saw a boy near the bank door, and began to ask questions about the town. After a time the young lady came out and went on her way. She seemed not to see Jimmy as she passed him.

“Isn’t that young lady Polly Simpson?” asked Jimmy.

“No,” said the boy. “She’s Annabel Adams. Her father owns this bank.”

Jimmy went to the hotel, where he said his name was Ralph D. Spencer. He got a room there. He told the hotel man he had come to Elmore to go into business. How was the shoe business? Was there already a good shoe-shop?

The man thought that Jimmy’s clothes and manners were fine. He was happy to talk to him. Yes, Elmore needed a good shoe-shop. There was no shop that sold just shoes. Shoes were sold in the big shops that sold everything. All business in Elmore was good. He hoped Mr. Spencer would decide to stay in Elmore. It was a pleasant town to live in and the people were friendly.

Mr. Spencer said he would stay in the town a few days and learn something about it. No, he said, he himself would carry his bag up to his room. He didn’t want a boy to take it. It was very heavy. Mr. Ralph Spencer remained in Elmore. He started a shoe-shop. Business was good. Also he made many friends. And he was successful with the wish of his heart. He met Annabel Adams. He liked her better every day.

At the end of a year everyone in Elmore liked Mr. Ralph Spencer. His shoe-shop was doing very good business. And he and Annabel were going to be married in two weeks. Mr. Adams, the small-town banker, liked Spencer. Annabel was very proud of him. He seemed already to belong to the Adams family. One day Jimmy sat down in his room to write this letter, which he sent to one of his old friends:

Dear Old Friend:

I want you to meet me at Sullivan’s place next week, on the evening of the 10th. I want to give you my tools. I know you’ll be glad to have them. You couldn’t buy them for a thousand dollars. I finished with the old business—a year ago. I have a nice shop. I’m living a better life, and I’m going to marry the best girl on earth two weeks from now. It’s the only life—I wouldn’t ever again touch another man’s money. After I marry, I’m going to go further west, where I’ll never see anyone who knew me in my old life. I tell you, she’s a wonderful girl. She trusts me.

Your old friend, Jimmy.

On the Monday night after Jimmy sent this letter, Ben Price arrived quietly in Elmore. He moved slowly about the town in his quiet way, and he learned all that he wanted to know. Standing inside a shop, he watched Ralph D. Spencer walk by.

“You’re going to marry the banker’s daughter, are you, Jimmy?” said Ben to himself. “I don’t feel sure about that!”

The next morning Jimmy was at the Adams home. He was going to a nearby city that day to buy new clothes for the wedding. He was also going to buy a gift for Annabel. It would be his first trip out of Elmore.

It was more than a year now since he had done any safe-breaking.

Most of the Adams family went to the bank together that morning. There were Mr. Adams, Annabel, Jimmy, and Annabel's married sister with her two little girls, aged five and nine. They passed Jimmy's hotel, and Jimmy ran up to his room and brought along his bag. Then they went to the bank.

All went inside—Jimmy, too, for he was one of the family. Everyone in the bank was glad to see the good-looking, nice young man who was going to marry Annabel. Jimmy put down his bag.

Annabel, laughing, put Jimmy's hat on her head and picked up the bag. "How do I look?" she asked. "Ralph, how heavy this bag is! It feels full of gold."

"It's full of some things I don't need in my shop," Jimmy said. "I'm taking them to the city, to the place where they came from. That saves me the cost of sending them. I'm going to be a married man. I must learn to save money."

The Elmore bank had a new safe. Mr. Adams was very proud of it, and he wanted everyone to see it. It was as large as a small room, and it had a very special door. The door was controlled by a clock. Using the clock, the banker planned the time when the door should open. At other times no one, not even the banker himself, could open it. He explained about it to Mr. Spencer. Mr. Spencer seemed interested but he did not seem to understand very easily. The two children, May and Agatha, enjoyed seeing the shining heavy door, with all its special parts.

While they were busy like this, Ben Price entered the bank and looked around. He told a young man who worked there that he had not come on business; he was waiting for a man.

Suddenly there was a cry from the women. They had not been watching the children. May, the nine-year-old girl, had playfully but firmly closed the door of the safe. And Agatha was inside.

The old banker tried to open the door. He pulled at it for a moment. "The door can't be opened," he cried. "And the clock—I hadn't started it yet."

Agatha's mother cried out again.

"Quiet!" said Mr. Adams, raising a shaking hand. "All be quiet for a moment. Agatha!" he called as loudly as he could. "Listen to me." They could hear, but not clearly, the sound of the child's voice. In the darkness inside the safe, she was wild with fear.

"My baby!" her mother cried. "She will die of fear! Open the door! Break it open! Can't you men do something?"

"There isn't a man nearer than the city who can open that door," said Mr. Adams, in a shaking voice. "My God! Spencer, what shall we do? That child—she can't live long in there. There isn't enough air. And the fear will kill her."

Agatha's mother, wild too now, beat on the door with her hands. Annabel turned to Jimmy, her large eyes full of pain, but with some hope, too. A woman thinks that the man she loves can somehow do anything.

"Can't you do something, Ralph? Try, won't you?"

He looked at her with a strange soft smile on his lips and in his eyes.

Conflicting News Reports on the Fate of the Sinking Titanic

By Various Authors

1912

The RMS Titanic was a British passenger liner that sank in the North Atlantic Ocean in the early morning of 15 April 1912, after colliding with an iceberg. More than 1,500 passengers died as a result of the ship sinking. After the ship sank, there were conflicting reports about what really happened, with nobody knowing for certain whether or not the ship had sunk at the time. As you read, take notes on the similarities and differences of the details presented in the two newspaper articles.

LINER¹ TITANIC KEPT AFLOAT BY WATER-TIGHT COMPARTMENTS BEING TOWED INTO HALIFAX, N.S.

The Washington Times

April 15, 1912

Steamer Virginian Taking Disabled Ship to Port of Refuge. Passengers Trans- shipped to Other Vessels to Await Arrival of the Baltic,² Which is to Convey Them to New York. Disaster Unparalleled³ in History of Navigation.

[1] MONTREAL, April 15. — A message to the Montreal Star from its correspondent at St. Johns, New Brunswick, at 1:15 says that the *Titanic* is being towed toward port⁴ by the Allan liner Virginian.

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia, April 15. — Held afloat only by her water-tight compartments the great White Star liner *Titanic* is slowly crawling toward this harbor. Her passengers have been taken off to other vessels, only to have to face a second ordeal,⁵ as they are to be again transferred to the *Baltic*, of the White Star line, this afternoon. The *Baltic* will take them to their journey's end in New York, where they are due next Thursday.

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1. a large ship that carries passengers
 2. a ship which was in the vicinity of the Titanic
 3. Unparalleled (adjective): having no equal; exceptional
 4. taken back to the dock by another boat
 5. Ordeal (noun): a terrible experience

The disaster to the *Titanic* was unparalleled in the history of navigation. The largest, most luxurious and best appointed⁶ vessel ever laid down, she seemed proof against any disaster, and it is to the very fact that she was a new steamer that the passengers on board, noted financiers and society leaders, owe their lives.

Hardly another craft afloat could have withstood the terrific shock when the *Titanic*, driving along at better than half speed, although in the midst of icefields, crashed bow on⁷ into a great submerged⁸ mountain of ice which tore away her steel plates.

7 LINER TITANIC WRECKED BY ICEBERG; PASSENGERS TRANSFERRED TO OTHER VESSELS IN MID OCEAN

The Day Book

April 15, 1912

Biggest Steamer Ever Afloat Crumpled Up Like Toy in Nighttime — Wireless⁹ Saves 2,000 Passengers and Crew.

[5] Halifax, N. S., April 15. — Kept afloat only by her watertight compartments, the great White Star liner *Titanic* slowly is crawling toward this harbor.

Her 1,470 passengers were taken off and put aboard other steamers in mid ocean. They may thank a calm sea and the wireless that they are alive today.

The disaster to the *Titanic* is unequalled in the history of navigation: The largest, most luxurious and best appointed vessel that ever floated, she seemed proof against any disaster.

Hardly another ship afloat could have withstood the terrific shock when the *Titanic*, driving through the night at more than half speed ahead, crashed bow on into a great submerged iceberg.

Just how the accident happened, whether there was a panic among the passengers, is not yet known here. Only the wireless appeals for help came from the stricken ship.

[10] Captain E. S. Smith, admiral of the White Star fleet of liners and in command of the *Titanic*, realized acutely¹⁰ the danger to his passengers.

The first message was received at the Cape Race wireless station at 10:25 p. m. last night. It was demand for immediate help.

From Cape Race the news was spread far and wide by wireless and by telegraph. Vessel was reached and given the position of the *Titanic*, and urged to make all speed to her aid.

6. Appointed (adjective): equipped

7. straight into

8. Submerged (adjective): underwater

9. radio

10. Acutely (adverb): requiring serious attention

The Allan liner *Virginian* was the first. She turned her prow¹¹ toward the wounded giant of the seas, and set out under forced draught.¹² Then the *Carpathia*, of the Cunard line, and the *Baltic*, sister ship of the wrecked vessel, and the Allan liner *Parisian*, were reached, and all proceeded toward the *Titanic*.

Then came a time of cruel waiting. From the moment the first message reached Cape Race station until 12:27 a. m., there came flash after flash from the *Titanic*.

[15] And each message was the same — “Hurry! Hurry! We are sinking and the passengers may be lost.”

Nothing could be done from the shore. The *Titanic* lay 450 miles south of Cape Race, and 1,150 miles due east of New York. The only hope for her passengers seemed to be from vessels in her immediate vicinity.¹³

At 12:27 a. m. a message was relayed to the shore:

“All women and children among passengers have been put in lifeboats; which are being held ready for lowering at moment’s notice.”

Three times the message was repeated, and then the wireless fell silent, and every attempt made by the stations on shore to get into communication with the sinking liner failed.

[20] Then communication with the *Virginian* ceased, and those on shore could only wait helplessly.

It is known now that the reason the wireless failed was the atmospheric condition in the ice field in which the *Titanic* was lying helpless, but at the time it was feared that the great liner and her passengers and crew had sunk to the bottom of the sea.

At 8:30 this morning, a brief wireless saying that the *Titanic* was still afloat and proceeding under her own steam was picked up.

The White Star office in New York issued an official statement that it would be impossible for the *Titanic* to sink, no matter how badly she might have been injured.

Shortly after 9 o’clock, a message was received that the *Carpathia*, the *Parisian* and the *Virginian* were “standing by” the stricken ship, and that the *Baltic* was coming up fast.

[25] Shortly afterwards came another message saying that the transfer of the passengers had been begun.

The first boat loads were rowed to the *Carpathia*. The life boats of the *Titanic* represent the last word in safety. They are wide, and non-sinkable. Each can hold 50 passengers. Only 35 were taken at a time today, however.

The work of transferring passengers at sea always is full of danger. It was less so today than usual. The wind had died down to nothing at all. The sea was comparatively quiet.

11. the front of a ship

12. a way to power an engine

13. Vicinity (noun): the area around or near a particular place

Many of the passengers carried their most valuable belongings with them. There was no attempt to move hand baggage. Nearly all the first class passengers of the great liner were financiers or society leaders. A conservative estimate of the value of jewelry and bonds carried among them is \$5,000,000.

There was a great deal of conflict between the wireless messages received this afternoon.

One dispatch [sic] to Montreal declared the Titanic had sunk.

The conflict of messages was due to interference with messages and because all wireless messages had to be relayed.

Just what is to be done with the passengers transferred from the *Titanic* has not been decided. They may be transferred at sea again, and put aboard the *Baltic*, and brought to New York. They may stay on the steamers they now are on, and, these, ships may be ordered to Halifax, where special trains are already being got ready for the shipwrecked men and women.

New York, April 15. — The *Titanic* is the greatest of modern leviathans,¹⁴ being even bigger than the monster Olympic.

She also is the most luxuriously fitted and furnished vessel ever sent to sea.

[35] She is 888 1/2 feet long, with a 92 foot beam. Her registered tonnage is 43,000 tons, and her displacement 66,000 tons. 5,000 passengers could be accommodated aboard her, 600 in the cabins.

She carried a crew of 800 men. Her captain, E. S. Smith, is the veteran of the White Star service.

This was the Titanic's maiden voyage. It was not begun well. When she was drawing out from Southampton docks, the suction she created in the harbor dislodged the American liner New York from her berth, breaking the two heavy hawsers like pack threads.

The New York swung toward the Titanic, and narrowly missed plunging into her. This was regarded as a bad omen by the captain and crew of the Olympic.

The passengers on the Titanic included some of the best known names in America. Mr. and John Jacob Astor, Alfred G. Vanderbilt, Bruce Ismay, Clarence Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Isadore Straus, Countess Rothes, Archie Butt, Mrs. L. Appleton, Mr. and Mrs. Washington Dodge, and Benjamin Guggenheim were among them. Nearly every cabin passenger was a multi-millionaire.

14. a sea monster

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which statement best describes the relationship between the two newspaper articles?
 - A. The first article includes correct information about why the ship sank while the second article incorrectly claims the ship did not sink.
 - B. Both articles included information about the trouble the ship had when it first left harbor.
 - C. The first article includes more details about the passengers on the ship than does the second article.
 - D. Both articles incorrectly claim that the ship did not sink after hitting the iceberg.

2. PART B: Which details best describe the relationship between the two newspaper articles in Part A? Choose two details, one from each article.
 - A. "Held afloat only by her water-tight compartments" ("Liner Titanic", Paragraph 2)
 - B. "Her passengers have been taken off to other vessels" ("Liner Titanic", Paragraph 2)
 - C. "and it is to the very fact that she was a new steamer that the passengers on board, noted financiers and society leaders, owe their lives" ("Liner Titanic", Paragraph 3)
 - D. "Hurry! Hurry! We are sinking and the passengers' may be lost." ("7 Liner Titanic", Paragraph 15)
 - E. "the Titanic was still afloat and proceeding under her own steam was picked up." ("7 Liner Titanic", Paragraph 22)
 - F. "When she was drawing out from Southampton docks, the suction she created in the harbor dislodged the American liner New York from her berth" ("7 Liner Titanic", Paragraph 37)

3. What is the author's main purpose conveyed in the second newspaper article, "7 Liner Titanic Wrecked"?
 - A. to reassure the public that the Titanic is invincible and survived the accident
 - B. to convey the tragedy of incident
 - C. to reassure the public and to describe the details of the rescue of all passengers
 - D. to reveal discrepancies between many different sides of the same story

4. How does the author of the second newspaper article respond to reports that reject information in the first article's account?
 - A. The Allan Liner Virginian provided incorrect information about the events that occurred and now reporters have the true story.
 - B. The author claims that there was interference with messages because all of the wireless messages needed to be relayed, which caused miscommunication.
 - C. The author claims that he received incorrect information that the ship stayed afloat and acknowledges that the ship actually sank.
 - D. The author claims that he thought all passengers were saved, but in reality, he learned that many drowned.

5. Compare and contrast the two newspaper articles. Explain the similarities and differences in each article's point of view about the incident and the rescue of the passengers.

Discussion Questions

Directions: Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be sure to use correct Standard English grammar and usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

1. According to the text, what caused the conflicting reports? Why was the information in the reports incorrect?

2. Have you ever been told something that turned out to be incorrect? What was it? How did it affect the trust you have in the information you receive from other people? How do you think these incorrect reports affected the reader's trust in the newspapers?

3. Why do you think that newspapers did not wait to report on the Titanic until they knew for sure what happened? What benefits were there in reporting on the ship so quickly? What differences exist between the way the news was reported at the time of the Titanic and today?

7th Grade IXL Standards

Directions: Log into your IXL account and complete the following standards. Be sure to master each standard before progressing to the next activity. MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE COMPLETING 7TH GRADE STANDARDS

Week of :	IXL Standards
April 6 – 10	H.1 and K. 3
April 13 – 17	K.4 and K.5
April 20 – April 24	N.3 and N.4
April 27 – May 1	N.6 and MM.1
May 4 – May 8	OO.2 and PP.1