

# Question Exploration Guide

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Names: Mike Stoessel and Mary Jackson

Critical Question #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

① What is the Critical Question? What effect does Ahab's obsession have on the men of the Pequod?

② What are the Key Terms and explanations?

obsession

peg leg

mate

harpooners

vengeance

sperm whale

“a state in which someone thinks about someone or something constantly or frequently especially in a way that is not normal” [Merriam-Webster online]

straight wooden leg used instead of person's missing leg

officers just under the captain in rank (first, second, third)

seamen who throw the harpoon at the targeted whale

another way to say “revenge”

“parmacety”, good source of high quality oil

③ What are the Supporting Questions and answers?

1. What was Ahab's obsession?
2. What were the reasons for this obsession?
3. How did he pursue this?
4. What were the crew's reactions?

1. Ahab was obsessed with destroying Moby Dick.
2. Moby Dick had been the cause of Ahab's losing his leg. Moby was also “the one that got away”.
3. Ahab didn't tell the men their true purpose until they were already at sea. He then offered them bonuses
4. The mates were less enthused about the loss of their regular pay and were generally cautious. The rest of the crew was excited about the chance for gold.

④ What is the main Idea answer?

Everyone dies except Ishmael.

⑤ How can we use the main idea?

What are some examples of modern obsessions?

What are some sacrifices people make in pursuing their obsessions?

⑥ Is there an Overall Idea? Is there a real-world use?

Obsession can be a positive or negative, depending on the focus and cultural context.