

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Level 9, Passage 1  
"Canoe Story"

Denise waited for a perfectly calm day before making her maiden voyage. The little outrigger canoe that her father had built for her was cute and streamlined, but it sat low in the water. Denise didn't want any trouble from the wind or the waves. She noted from her tide chart that high tide would be at 11:04 in the morning. That would give her enough depth in the wide and shallow lagoon.

How long would the voyage take? From her doorstep in Saladak to the co-op store in Nan Uh, the trip was about a mile and a half along the island's shore. Since she could walk the distance on the pig path in half an hour, Denise figured she could paddle the distance in an hour at the most. Therefore, her plan was to leave at ten, get there at eleven, shop for a few groceries, and be back by twelve thirty.

The trip north was easy enough. Sitting in the stern of the canoe, she switched her paddle from side to side so as to keep the canoe on a relatively straight course, hugging the outer boundary of the mangrove swamp. With the help of a slight tail breeze, she arrived at the Nan Uh dock a little before eleven o'clock.

At the co-op, Denise bought a bag of rice, three cans each of corned beef hash and mackerel, and a small tin of kerosene. All these she sealed in a tough plastic bag, which she then carefully laid in the hull of the canoe. She shoved off around 11:15.

Paddling back to Saladak was a different story. What had been a tail breeze on the way up was now a very noticeable head wind, and it made the salty lagoon water slap up against the bow of the canoe. The going was slower because it was harder to keep the canoe from veering off course toward the left. Paddling hard against the wind, Denise noticed that water was accumulating in the hull of the canoe around her plastic package of groceries.

What she did not realize, until it was too late, was that each time her paddle came out of the water, it spooned a little water into the open canoe. Too late, she started bailing out the canoe.

Clues ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐  
1 2 3 4 5 6

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Level 9, Passage 1 Questions  
"Canoe Story"

1. What will probably happen next?

- a. The canoe will sink.
- b. Denise will bail the water out in time to save herself.
- c. Somebody will help her.
- d. A creature will come out of the water.

Q	A
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2. Why was Denise worried about the wind?

- a. The canoe sat so low that it could easily take on water.
- b. She wouldn't be able to steer.
- c. She didn't have a sail.
- d. It might blow her out to sea.

Q	A
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3. We can assume one thing for sure:

- a. Denise cooked for herself.
- b. Denise had a servant to cook for her.
- c. Denise was a recklessly brave person.
- d. Denise lived near the ocean.

Q	A
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4. What is the probable meaning of "veering" in the fifth paragraph?

- a. A ring in the shape of a V.
- b. Turning.
- c. Sinking.
- d. Speeding.

Q	A
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5. At the co-op, Denise bought

- a. At least eight items.
- b. Six cans of mackerel.
- c. At most five items.
- d. Only food.

Q	A
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6. Which sentence best summarizes the passage?

- a. Keeping track of the tides is important.
- b. A woman gets into trouble while canoeing along an island coast.
- c. Denise had no business paddling her canoe to the store.
- d. Denise's careful planning resulted in a successful shopping trip.

Q	A
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