

Improving Your Reading with Arlo the Author: Bravery on the Seas



In the most boisterous weather, when the rain fell in torrents and the wind howled like a distressed wolf, the little Irish boy would fearlessly and cheerfully climb to the top of the mast. He would balance, as if atop a tightrope, through gales and over waves as tall as mountains. Indeed, he would perform any other duty required of him, regardless of the risk. At twelve years old, the captain promoted the clever, good

tempered and trustworthy boy; he spoke well of him before the whole crew and doubled his pay.

Volney's praise was well-deserved; his shipmates loved him both for his generous nature and because he had often shown himself ready to brave danger to assist them. However, an occasion soon arrived in which he had the opportunity to perform one of the most truly heroic deeds on record.



1. **Find** and **copy three different** words from the first sentence which suggest danger.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

2. *as if atop a tightrope*

What does this phrase suggest about Volney?

3. Find and copy an example of a simile from the text and explain how it contributes to meaning.

4. *the little Irish boy would fearlessly and cheerfully climb to the top of the mast*
Give two impressions that this phrase gives you of Volney.

1. _____
2. _____



Answers

- 1. Find and copy three different** words from the first sentence which suggest danger.
Accept any three of the following reasonable points: boisterous; torrents; howled; distressed; wolf.
- as if atop a tightrope*
What does this phrase suggest about Volney?
Pupils' own responses, such as: It suggests that he is good at balancing like an acrobat.
- Find and copy an example of a simile from the text and explain how it contributes to meaning.
Pupils' own responses, such as: A simile from the text is 'howled like a distressed wolf'. This helps the reader to imagine the noise that the wind is making on-board the ship and builds atmosphere.
- the little Irish boy would fearlessly and cheerfully climb to the top of the mast*
Give **two** impressions that this phrase gives you of Volney.
Accept any two reasonable points, such as: Volney is brave; Volney is a happy person; Volney is always positive; Volney was not scared of heights; Volney was not very tall.