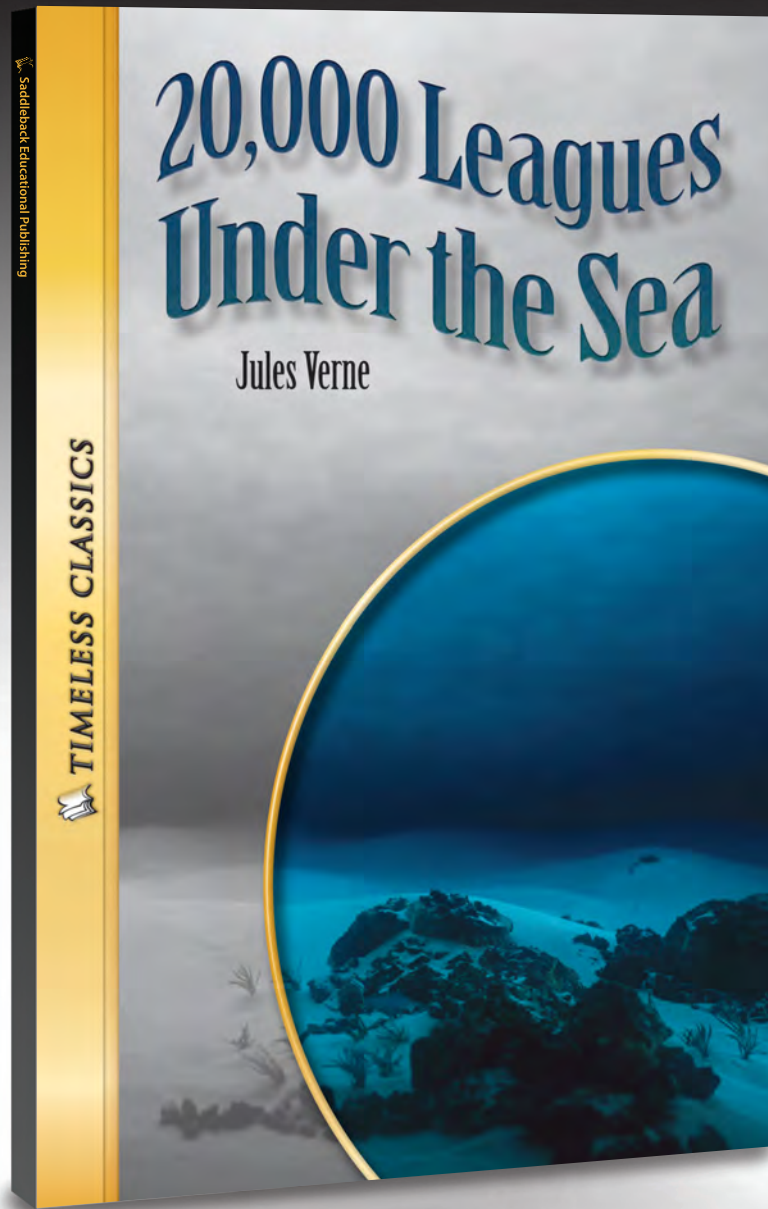




TIMELESS CLASSICS

STUDY GUIDE



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TIMELESS CLASSICS

NOTES TO THE TEACHER

THE NOVELS

Timeless Classics were expressly designed to help struggling readers gain access to some of the world’s greatest literature. While retaining the essence and stylistic “flavor” of the original, each novel has been expertly adapted to a reading level that never exceeds grade 4.0.

An ideal introduction to later investigations of the original works, *Timeless Classics* utilize a number of strategies to ensure the involvement of struggling readers: airy, uncomplicated page design; shortened sentences; easy-reading type style; elimination of archaic words and spellings; shortened total book length; and handsome illustrations.

To further engage struggling readers, some of our *Timeless Classics* titles are available in a new and exciting graphic format, which can bridge literacies and build complex reading skills—a perfect opportunity for differentiation.

THE STUDY GUIDES

The *Timeless Classics Study Guides* provide a wealth of reproducible support materials to help students extend the learning experience. Features include critical background notes on both the author and the times, character descriptions, chapter summaries, and eight “universal” exercises that may be used for any *Timeless Classic* or *Saddleback Illustrated Classic*.

In addition to the universal exercises, 26 title-specific activities are included to review, test, or enrich the student’s grasp of important vocabulary and concepts. These reproducible worksheets are designed to be used chapter-by-chapter as the student’s reading of the novel proceeds. At least two exercises are provided for each book chapter. One of the two always focuses on key vocabulary. The other may be a simple comprehension check or present an important literary concept.

Research shows that the most effective way to improve comprehension is to teach students strategies. The foundation of any comprehension strategy requires knowledge of the skills found in these activities including: main idea, noting details, drawing conclusions, finding the sequence, cause and effect, making inferences, and more. A two-page final exam is also included in every *Timeless Classics Study Guide*.

USING THE STUDY GUIDES

Before assigning any of the reproducible exercises, be sure your students each have a personal copy of the *Glossary* and the *Facts About the Author* and *About the Times*. By organizing the reading process in this way, you will be able to set a purpose for reading and activate prior knowledge. The *Facts About the Author* and *About the Times* lend themselves to any number of writing or research projects you may wish to assign. To further preview the novel, you may wish to review the *Facts About the Characters*. Students will also need to be familiar with many of the literary terms in order to complete the worksheets.

The title-specific exercises may be used as a springboard for class discussions and role-playing. Alternatively, you may wish to assign some exercises as homework and others during the closing minutes of a class period.

All exercises in this Guide are designed to accommodate independent study as well as group work. The occasional assignment of study partners or competitive teams often enhances interest and promotes creativity. Oral language activities, such as paraphrasing or summarizing a part of the story, provide an intervention opportunity to strengthen oral language skills and, in turn, strengthen reading skills.

FACTS ABOUT THE AUTHOR

JULES VERNE

(1828–1905)

The son of a prosperous lawyer, Jules Verne was born in the port of Nantes, France. As a teenager, he moved to Paris, where he, too, studied the law. There, his uncle introduced him to popular French writers such as Alexandre Dumas, the author of *The Three Musketeers*.

That inspired young Verne; at the age of 22, he published a one-act comedy called *The Broken Straws*. While studying for his law degree, Verne became an enthusiastic fan of Edgar Allan Poe's eerie stories, which had recently been translated into French.

Inspired by Poe's imagination, Verne kept on writing. His early work shows a fascination with scientific progress and inventions that would last all his life. Before long, Verne's novels, written for young people as well as adults, became popular throughout the world. His fantastic plots carried his readers all over the earth, under it, and above it.

In time, his works became recognized as unbelievably prophetic. In *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, for example, his *Nautilus* submarine predated the real power submarine by 25 years. And his spaceship predicted the actual development of such a craft by 100 years.

Today, Verne is regarded (along with H. G. Wells) as the founding father of science fiction. His best-known novels are *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, *The Mysterious Island*, and *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.

For more than 40 years, Jules Verne published at least one book a year. In addition to novels, he wrote short stories, essays, plays, geographical works, and even opera librettos.

Jules Verne died at the age of 77 in Amiens, France.

FACTS ABOUT THE TIMES

In 1828, when Jules Verne was born . . .

Andrew Jackson defeated John Quincy Adams for the presidency of the United States . . . Alexandre Dumas published *The Three Musketeers* . . . Noah Webster published *The American Dictionary of the English Language* . . . Jean Henri Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross, was born . . . the Austrian composer Franz Schubert died.

In 1873, when *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* was published . . .

Ulysses S. Grant had been president of the United States for one year . . . Confederate General Robert E. Lee died . . . the first

postcards were introduced in Austria . . . debtors' prisons were abolished in Britain . . . France declared war on Prussia . . . P. T. Barnum opened his circus, "The Greatest Show on Earth."

In 1905, when Jules Verne died . . .

Ty Cobb began his major league baseball career . . . Theodore Roosevelt won a second term as U.S. president . . . Albert Einstein formulated the theory of relativity . . . the first neon light signs appeared . . . the first movie theater in America was established in Pittsburgh . . . Picasso arrived in Paris.

FACTS ABOUT THE CHARACTERS

PIERRE ARONNAX

the narrator of the story is a 40-year-old professor from the Museum of Natural History in Paris. He's invited to join the hunt for the mysterious "thing" that's appeared in the world's oceans. When he's washed overboard, his real adventure is just beginning

CONSEIL

Professor Aronnax's devoted servant for the past 10 years, he has accompanied his master on many previous expeditions; he is 30 years old

COMMANDER FARRAGUT

captain of the *Abraham Lincoln*, this "daring man" heads an expedition to catch and kill the "thing"—which he is convinced is a sea monster

NED LAND

a burly and brave Canadian who's known as the "prince of harpooners," he, too, is

invited to join Farragut's expedition. In the course of their travels, he becomes Aronnax's "great friend"

CAPTAIN NEMO

the strange and secretive commander of the *Nautilus*, the submarine that is actually the mysterious "thing." As he takes Aronnax, Conseil, and Ned Land on a fantastic underwater journey, they discover that he's a bitter and tortured man, who's "finished with the human race" because of a great wrong that was done to him

CREWMEN

the sailors on the *Nautilus* are strong, healthy men from many nations who speak an odd language Aronnax does not understand

20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA

CHAPTER SUMMARIES

CHAPTER 1

In 1866, several ships at sea report sightings of a mysterious “thing.” They say that its size is enormous, that it sometimes glows, and that it seems to swim even faster than a whale. When a ship called the *Scotia* is struck and damaged by the “thing,” an American ship called the *Abraham Lincoln* sets out on an expedition to investigate what it is. A professor from France, Pierre Aronnax, along with his faithful servant Conseil, joins the expedition. Captain Farragut, commander of the *Abraham Lincoln*, also invites a Canadian named Ned Land to join the expedition. He is a master harpooner. Farragut believes the “thing” is a sea monster, Aronnax thinks it’s a narwhal, and Ned Land isn’t sure.

CHAPTER 2

For three months at sea, the *Abraham Lincoln* finds nothing. Farragut offers a reward to encourage the weary crew. Then one day the “thing” appears—but it’s going too fast for the *Abraham Lincoln* to catch it. After many hours—and having covered 300 miles—the *Abraham Lincoln* comes close enough for Ned Land to strike it with a harpoon. But his harpoon bounces off the object. The object ejects two huge spouts of water that wash Aronnax, Conseil, and Ned Land off the deck of the ship. Conseil helps Aronnax stay afloat. Just when they are sure they will drown, they hear Ned Land’s voice calling out. By sheer luck, he’s found a place to stand—right on top of the “thing”! Aronnax and Conseil join him. Soon an iron plate on the “thing” moves to

one side and the three men are escorted into what they now realize is a submarine.

CHAPTER 3

After a long sleep, the three visitors are greeted by Captain Nemo, the commander of the submarine. He claims the right to call them enemies since the *Abraham Lincoln* attacked his submarine, the *Nautilus*. He says that they must stay aboard because they’ve uncovered his secret—the fact that he exists. Strangely, he already knows who Aronnax and Ned Land are. After promising them a fascinating journey, he takes Aronnax on a tour of the *Nautilus*, which includes a museum, a library, and comfortable quarters. Aronnax is surprised to find that the ship is powered by electricity and is also equipped with a long, sharp spur—undoubtedly, the weapon that was used to pierce the hull of the *Scotia*. In his conversation, Nemo reveals his intense hatred of human society.

CHAPTER 4

The visitors to the *Nautilus* are fascinated when Captain Nemo opens sliding panels within the submarine that reveal huge windows looking out at the deep sea. They pass many hours admiring the sea life. One day Captain Nemo has them dress in diving suits for an underwater hunt on the Island of Crespo. They’re all astounded by the “forest” of sea plants rising straight up from the ocean floor to the surface. Before returning to the *Nautilus*, Captain Nemo shoots a magnificent otter, and then bravely saves Aronnax from a shark attack.

TIMELESS CLASSICS

LITERARY GLOSSARY

action what happens in a story; the acts or events that take place

The war story was full of battle action.

author the writer of a book, story, article, etc.

Ernest Hemingway was an American author.

author's purpose the author's specific goal or reason for writing a certain book

In that novel, the author's purpose was to make readers laugh.

character a fictional person who plays a part in a story or novel

Long John Silver is an important character in *Treasure Island*.

classic excellent artwork, novel, painting, symphony, etc. that remains popular over many years

Norman Mailer's *The Naked and the Dead* has become an American classic

climax the outcome of the novel's main conflict

The capture of the criminal was the climax of the detective story.

conclusion the resolution of all plot conflicts, bringing the story to a close

That play's conclusion was very satisfying. Every conflict was resolved.

conflict The struggle between characters or forces at the center of the story

The conflict was resolved when the suspect confessed.

description the parts of a story or novel that tell about the appearance of the setting or characters

His description of the Alps was breathtaking.

dialogue words spoken by the characters in a novel, story, or play

The dialogue in that comedy is very witty and amusing.

effect in literature, an impression created by the writer

Murder mysteries often create a suspenseful, chilling effect.

event a specific occurrence; something that happens

A plane crash is the first event in that adventure novel.

fiction a literary work in which the plot and characters are the products of the author's imagination

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* is a popular work of fiction.

figurative language colorful wording not meant to be taken literally, but to form a colorful, sharp picture in the mind

A "screaming" headline may be set in large type, but it makes no sound at all.

imagery figures of speech that help the reader to visualize the characters or setting; pictures in words

In Stephen Crane's imagery, the color of blood suggests courage.

introduction a short reading that presents and explains a novel; sometimes the first part of a novel that sets the scene

The introduction to *Frankenstein* is in the form of a letter.

mood the overall feeling or atmosphere the author creates in a story or novel

The author's skillful use of language created a dismal, hopeless mood.

moral the instructive point of a story or novel; the lesson to be drawn by the reader

The moral of the story is to choose your friends carefully.

WORDS AND MEANINGS

NAME _____

DATE _____

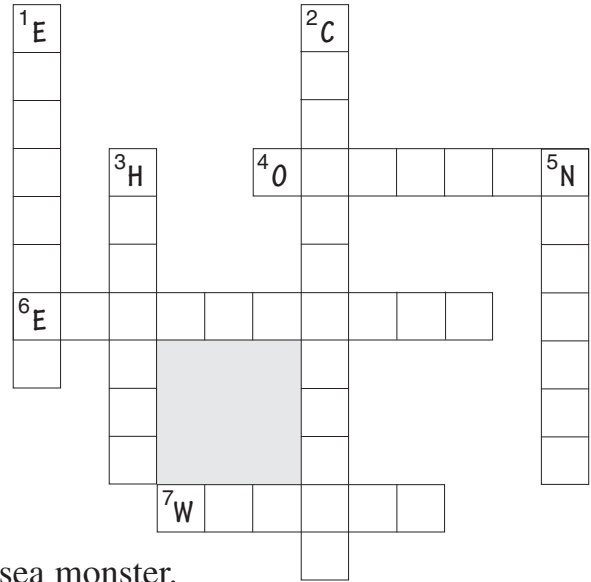
A. Complete the crossword puzzle with words from Chapter 1 that complete the sentences.

ACROSS

- 4. In Ned Land’s ____, the “monster” was not a narwhal.
- 6. Conseil joined the narrator on every scientific ____.
- 7. The excellent Captain Farragut was ____ of the *Abraham Lincoln*.

DOWN

- 1. A hole was found when the damage was ____.
- 2. The *Scotia* was divided into ____.
- 3. Ned Land hoped to ____ the mysterious sea monster.
- 5. A giant ____ could pierce the hull of the ship.



B. Think about the meaning of the **boldface** word in each phrase. Then write an *antonym* (word with the opposite meaning) from the box after each phrase. Hint: You will *not* use all the words.

depths risky miniature faithfully safe reluctantly

- 1. an **enormous** thing in the sea

- 3. lived miles beneath the **surface**

- 2. watched the seas **eagerly**

- 4. a **dangerous** mission

C. Now write a word from the box to match each **boldface** word with its *synonym* (word with the same or similar meaning). Hint: You will *not* use all the words.

fickle dedicated disbelieving shatter puncture unaccountable

- 1. a **mysterious** object

- 3. You’re so **incredulous**.

- 2. **pierce** the hull

- 4. my **devoted** servant

COMPREHENSION CHECK

NAME _____

DATE _____

Circle a letter to answer the question or complete the sentence.

1. What was observed when the mysterious “thing” was first spotted?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a. It was covered with iron plates. | c. It moved faster than a whale. |
| b. It glowed. | d. both b and c |

2. Pierre Aronnax worked as a professor at

- | | |
|---|---|
| a. Harvard College in Cambridge. | c. the Museum of Natural History in Paris. |
| b. the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. | d. the British National Aquarium in London. |

3. What ship was damaged by the unidentified “thing”?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. the <i>Scotia</i> | c. the <i>Nautilus</i> |
| b. the <i>Abraham Lincoln</i> | d. the <i>Bellwether</i> |

4. Who believed the “thing” was a sea monster?

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| a. Pierre Aronnax | c. Commander Farragut |
| b. Ned Land | d. Conseil |

5. Ned Land was well-known as the

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. crazy American. | c. most devoted servant. |
| b. prince of harpooners. | d. Canadian troublemaker. |

6. Ned Land didn’t believe the “thing” was a narwhal because

- | | |
|---|---|
| a. whales aren’t strong enough to pierce an iron plate. | c. the narwhal has a short, weak tusk. |
| b. he had never harpooned a narwhal. | d. he thought Pierre Aronnax was a foolish man. |

WORDS AND MEANINGS

NAME _____

DATE _____

A. Circle the hidden words. They may go up, down, across, backward, or diagonally. Check off each word as you find it.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| ___ SCHEME | ___ FATE |
| ___ FOSSILS | ___ OVAL |
| ___ METALLIC | ___ MUSEUM |
| ___ RETREATED | ___ VOYAGE |
| ___ UNEVENTFUL | ___ VALVES |
| ___ ELECTRICITY | ___ RUDDER |

S	C	O	V	A	L	A	G	N	F	Y	D
Q	I	X	B	A	M	S	E	O	T	P	L
U	L	N	W	E	L	R	K	I	J	C	M
K	L	S	T	U	H	V	C	Q	A	U	E
B	A	H	C	L	S	I	E	V	E	X	R
F	T	D	O	H	R	K	B	S	C	U	F
A	E	Z	R	T	E	E	U	A	D	S	O
O	M	T	C	G	B	M	P	D	O	A	S
H	K	E	A	N	K	L	E	G	R	H	S
L	L	Y	J	F	O	R	S	L	P	A	I
E	O	D	E	T	A	E	R	T	E	R	L
V	U	N	E	V	E	N	T	F	U	L	S

B. Write words from the puzzle next to their definitions.

- _____ : with nothing happening that is unusual or important
- _____ : a power that's supposed to settle ahead of time how things will happen
- _____ : hardened remains or prints of plants or animals that lived long ago
- _____ : a flat piece of wood hinged to the rear of a boat and used for steering
- _____ : devices in tubes that control the flow of a gas or liquid
- _____ : a carefully put together plan or program
- _____ : containing or producing metal
- _____ : form of energy that comes from the movement of electrons in an atom
- _____ : journey by water