

## ◆ Lesson 5

# Across the Atlantic

### What Do You Know?

In the story “Across the Atlantic” two men battle many dangers as they travel more than 3,000 miles to cross the Atlantic Ocean in a rowboat.



**Answer the following questions.**

1. What is a rowboat? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you think you would have to be strong to row a boat over many miles? \_\_\_\_\_ Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How do you think two people can work as a team to row a boat?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Write a complete sentence to answer the following question.**

4. Why do you think some people like to try to do things no one else has done before? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read “Across the Atlantic.” Find out what dangers two men face when they decide to row a boat from the United States to Ireland.




## Across the Atlantic

Would you row across an ocean in a small boat? Most people do not think it can be done. The danger is too great.

In 1966 John Ridgeway and Chay Blyth wanted to row across the Atlantic Ocean from the United States to Ireland. That is about 3,000 miles!

The men were well trained. They thought they could row a boat to Ireland. But most people did not think they could. The danger was so great that most people thought the men would give up.



But on June 4, 1966, John and Chay left Cape Cod, the part of Massachusetts that sticks out into the Atlantic Ocean. They rowed a boat called *Rosie*. *Rosie* was 20 feet long and filled with food and other things the men would need.


From the start of the trip, the ocean waves were high. They lifted *Rosie* up and set it down. John and Chay took turns rowing. One man rowed until he was very tired. Then the other man took over.

At night, if the ocean was quiet, the men would put *Rosie's* anchor into the water. The anchor kept the boat in one place. Then the men would sleep.

On other nights the waves were high and strong. The anchor did not keep the boat in one place. The men had to row all night or the waves would turn over *Rosie*.

The trip was hard, but in the first days the men rowed many miles. Then a terrible storm hit. Large waves and strong winds pushed *Rosie* up and down. John and Chay rowed and rowed, but the waves pushed them back. The men knew they had to work hard to keep *Rosie* from going under the large waves.

Then the terrible storm ended. That was the good news. The bad news was that it had pushed back John and Chay almost to where they had started. After all those days and nights of rowing, the two men still had 2,900 miles to go!



Now the men were not sure what to do. Should they go on or turn back? They talked but not for long. Then they started rowing—to Ireland. They would not give up.


The next days were better, so John and Chay covered many ocean miles. Then a terrible hurricane hit! It made the first storm seem like nothing. The men rowed in strong hurricane winds. Waves washed over *Rosie*. Food and other things washed into the ocean. The danger was great, and the men were afraid. But they rowed and rowed. At last they beat the hurricane.

For many, many days, the ocean was quiet. The hot sun beat down on the men. The rowing was hard. Often John and Chay wished they had not made the ocean trip.

As the men rowed on, they learned that danger in the ocean comes in many ways. Another danger was fog. For days, John and Chay were lost in fog. They could not see dangers the fog hid. One morning the men heard a loud sound near them. But in the fog, they could not see what made the sound.

Then John and Chay saw where the sound came from. A large ship was rushing through the waves right at them! The people on the ship could not see *Rosie* in the fog. Would the ship hit *Rosie*? Each man waited, afraid. The ship came very close. But then it went by them. It did not hit *Rosie*!

As *Rosie* jumped up high in the big waves left by the large ship, John and Chay saw another danger in the fog. A whale was rushing right at *Rosie*! The men could see the head of the big animal. They were sure the



whale would knock into *Rosie* and turn her over. Then at the last second, the whale went under the small boat. Then it was gone. Another danger had passed.

Many days after that, the men met some hungry sharks! The sharks followed the boat and passed under it. They did not leave like the whale. The hungry sharks stayed by the boat. The men were afraid.

But then another danger came along that made the sharks leave. It was another storm. Again the men had to fight strong winds and large waves. But this storm was not like the others. It pushed them to Ireland. And when it ended at last, the men could see land.

In the face of great danger, John Ridgeway and Chay Blyth rowed across the Atlantic Ocean, and on September 3, 1966, they reached Ireland.

## What Did You Find?

Mark an X on the line in front of the correct answer.

1. Most of this story takes place in  
\_\_\_\_\_ the United States.  
\_\_\_\_\_ the Atlantic Ocean.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Ireland.
2. The distance from the United States to Ireland is about  
\_\_\_\_\_ 3,000 miles.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 5,000 miles.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 7,000 miles.
3. John Ridgeway and Chay Blyth could sleep on their boat, *Rosie*, when the ocean was  
\_\_\_\_\_ rushing.  
\_\_\_\_\_ quiet.  
\_\_\_\_\_ at low tide.
4. On nights when the waves were strong, the men  
\_\_\_\_\_ took turns sleeping.  
\_\_\_\_\_ got seasick.  
\_\_\_\_\_ rowed all night.

Write your answer in a complete sentence.

5. What was the bad news after the first terrible storm ended?

---

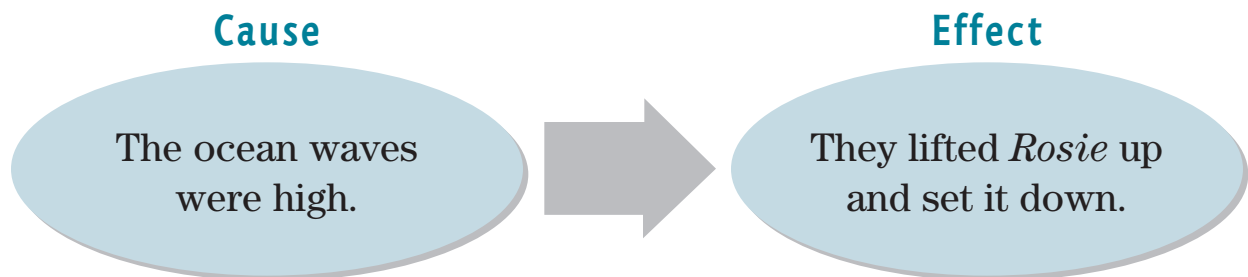
---

## ◆ Cause and Effect

Sometimes one thing happens—the *effect*—because something else made it happen—the *cause*. To find the effect, ask *What happened?* To find the cause, ask *Why did it happen?*

**Read the following sentences from “Across the Atlantic.” Look for the cause and effect in the sentences.**

The ocean waves were high. They lifted *Rosie* up and set it down.



**Read the sentences below. Think about the cause and the effect in each one. Fill in the blanks to complete each cause and effect.**

1. Waves washed over *Rosie*. Food and other things washed into the ocean.

**Cause** (*Why did it happen?*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Effect** (*What happened?*) \_\_\_\_\_

2. John and Chay were lost in the fog. They could not see dangers the fog hid.

**Cause** (*Why did it happen?*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Effect** (*What happened?*) \_\_\_\_\_

## Writing Using Cause and Effect

Read each sentence below. Then write the missing cause or effect on the line.

1. One man rowed until he was tired. Then the other man took over.

**Cause** (*Why did it happen?*) One man rowed until he was tired.

**Effect** (*What happened?*) \_\_\_\_\_

2. On other nights, the waves were high and strong. The anchor did not keep the boat in one place.

**Cause** (*Why did it happen?*) The waves were high and strong.

**Effect** (*What happened?*) \_\_\_\_\_

3. The men rowed in strong hurricane winds. Water rushed over *Rosie*.

**Cause** (*Why did it happen?*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Effect** (*What happened?*) Water rushed over *Rosie*.

4. The hot sun beat down on the men, and the rowing was hard. Often John and Chay wished they had not made the ocean trip.

**Cause** (*Why did it happen?*) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Effect** (*What happened?*) Often John and Chay wished they had not made the ocean trip.

Write a complete sentence using the following cause and effect.

**Cause** (*Why did it happen?*) Another storm came along.

**Effect** (*What happened?*) It pushed them to Ireland.

5. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_