Chapter 1 and 2
1. What reason does Ishmael give for going to sea?
2. Name the three positions that Ishmael does not mish to occupy aboard ship.
3. Why does Ishmael go to sea as a sailor rather than as a passenger?
4. What was Ishmael’s profession while not at sea?
5. What is the name of the first city in which Ishmael looks for lodging?
6. What is the name of the inn that Ishmael eventually settles into?
7. Why does Ishmael leave “The Trap”?

Chapter 3 and 4
1. One of the first things Ishmael notices upon entering the inn is a painting. What does this painting depict?
2. What is a Cape Horn measure?
3. What is the first piece of information that Ishmael learns about his bedmate?
4. Who is the first member of the Pequod’s crew that Ishmael observes? Describe the man.
5. Where is Queequeg while Ishmael is deciding whether or not to share his bed?
6. What finally decides the issue of where Ishmael will sleep?
7. What about Queequeg’s appearance does Ishmael find disturbing?
8. After undressing, Queequeg draws a tomahawk from his bag. Why?
9. What does Ishmael find odd about Queequeg’s dressing habits?

Chapter 5 and 6
1. Looking around the common room, Ishmael is able to guess at how long each man has been ashore. How?
2. What surprises Ishmael about breakfast?
3. What reason does Ishmael give for New Bedford’s prosperity?

Chapter 7 and 8
1. What is the focus of attention in the church as Ishmael makes his entrance? What do these objects have in common?
2. Why is Father Mapple so highly regarded by his congregation?
3. Before the sermon begins, Ishmael compares the pulpit?

Chapter 9 and 10
1. What biblical story does Father Mapple use as a basis for his sermon?
2. What according to Father Mapple, constitutes true repentance?
3. What foreshadowing does the preacher use?
4. What is Queequeg doing when Ishmael returns from church?
5. Who does Ishmael compare Queequeg to as he studies the man’s head?
6. Why does Ishmael finally decide to befriend Queequeg?
7. On what logic basis does Ishmael join in Queequeg’s ritual?

Chapters 11 and 12
1. Ishmael asserts that “a sleeping apartment should never be furnished with a fire.” (pg. 47) Why not?
2. Where is Queequeg from?
3. What is Queequeg's status among his people?
4. Why is Queequeg so eager to leave is island? Why was he unsuccessful in his quest?
5. Why had Queequeg stayed away from his homeland for so long?

Chapter 13 and 14
1. What is the name of the first boat that Ishmael and Queequeg board together?
2. What reward does Queequeg ask for his heroics on the ship?
3. According to legend, how was Nantucket discovered?
4. Find a simile on page 52 and foreshadowing on page 53.

Chapter 15 and 16
1. Who refers Queequeg and Ishmael to the Try Pots? Why?
2. What premonitions does Ishmael have?
3. On what basis does Mrs. Hussey object to Queequeg's taking his harpoon to his room?
4. What is the name of Queequeg's idol?
5. Provide two different reasons why the selection of the ship is left to Ishmael
6. Who are Captains Peleg and Bildad? What is the general impression of the Pequod?
7. What is Captain Peleg's response to Ishmael's credentials?
8. What are the origins of the name Pequod?
9. What is a "lay"?
10. What is Peleg's opinion of Ahab? What impression is given of Ahab?

Chapter 17 and 18
1. Why does Ishmael avoid returning to the room after signing on to the Pequod?
2. Why does Ishmael break the innkeeper's bolt?
3. Why is Queequeg allowed to crew for the Pequod?
4. Why does Captain Peleg argue that Queequeg should be hired?

Chapter 19 and 20
1. What does the stranger say that injects an element of mystery into the story?
2. Why does the stranger's name affect Ishmael strongly?
3. What does Ishmael do with the stranger's advice?
4. Who is "Aunt Charity" and how did she get that name?
5. Why does Ishmael accept Peleg and Bildad's excuses on behalf of the Captain?

Chapter 21 and 22
1. Who, besides Ishmael and Queequeg, sees the five vanishing sailors board the ship?
2. Why does Ishmael object to Queequeg's taste in "furniture"? Who is the next man introduced, and what is his job?
3. Who assumes command of the ship while she leaves the harbor? Who is the second mate?
4. How does Ishmael explain Ahab's continued absence on deck?
5. What can be inferred by the last sentence in the chapter?
Chapter 23 and 24
1. What is Bulkington's job aboard ship?
2. What job does Ishmael most closely associate with the professional whaler?
3. What credits does Ishmael list in defense of whaling?

Chapter 25 and 26
1. What is Ishmael's final point in defense of the whaling industry?
2. Why does Starbuck say "I will have no man in my boat,... who is not afraid of whale"?
3. What makes Starbuck "...as careful a man as you'll find anywhere in this fishery"? (Pg. 96)

Chapter 27 and 28
1. How does Stubb compare to Starbuck in relating to the whales?
2. What does Ishmael speculate is the cause of Stubb's good humor?
3. How does Flask compare with Stubb and Starbuck about whales?
4. Who are Tashtego and Daggoo? What is odd about the crew?
5. What is Captain Ahab's most prominent facial feature? What caused it? What impression does Ishmael get to Ahab?
6. What helps Ahab maintain his footing while n deck?
7. What, in Ishmael's opinion, brigs Ahab out from his cabin?

Chapter 29, 30, 31
1. What prompts Stubb to approach Ahab? What is Ahab's reaction?
2. What does Stubb decide to about Ahab's outburst?
3. Why does Ahab toss his pipe into the ocean?
4. Who does Stubb tell about his encounter with Ahab, which he calls a dream"?
5. What piece of wisdom does Stubb take from his dream?
6. What happens at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 32 and 33
1. Why does Ishmael discredit the work of more than half of his listed experts on Cetology?
2. Why does Ishmael discount Captain Scoresby?
3. According to Ishmael's system of classification, what type of animal is a whale?
4. Which type of whale, according to Ishmael, is the most profitable to hint?
5. Which whale is known as the "Unicorn whale"? (Pg. 117)
6. What, according to Ishmael, is the "grand distinction" (Pg. 121) between officers and seamen?
7. What makes the Specksnyder different form the other officers on the ship?

Chapter 34 and 35
1. In what order do the officers report to Ahab's cabin for dinner?
2. Why does Ishmael pity Flask when he is summoned to dinner?
3. What is Tashtego's way of speeding up the service at the harpooner's table?
4. Why does Ishmael consider Ahab's views on the use of his cabin typical?
5. What does it mean to "stand a mast had"?
6. What about the Glacier separates it from other whaling ships?
7. In your opinion, why does Ishmael react as he does to the idea of the crows nest?
8. What advice does Ishmael give to ship owners looking to hire sailors?

Chapter 36 and 37
1. What is meant by Stubb’s remark about Ahab that “the chick that’s in him pecks the shell. ‘twill soon be out”? (Pg. 133)
2. What is the first question Ahab asks the assembled crew?
3. What reward does Ahab offer to the man who spots the white whale, and how does he advertise it?
4. Who besides Ahab has actually seen Moby Dick before the meeting on the Pequod?
5. What is Starbuck’s opinion of Ahab’s quest?
6. How is the theme of good versus evil emphasized in this section?
7. Explain the depths of Ahab’s revulsion for the white whale and anything that opposes him, as he expresses it on page 136.
8. What, in your own words, is Ahab’s response to Starbuck?
9. What does Ahab tell the mates “would have dropped ye dead”? (Pg. 138)
10. Who thinks drinks from what in the toast that ends chapter thirty-six?
11. What element, not usually present in a novel, appears? What prophecy does Ahab make while alone in his cabin?
12. How do you think that Ahab would justify his quest for vengeance on the white whale?

Chapter 38 and 39
1. What is Starbuck’s objection to Ahab’s logic?
2. What answer does Stubb propose for the Pequod’s troubles?

Chapter 40 and 41
1. Which sailors join in the dance described in chapter forty?
2. Which sailors object to the dance and on what grounds?
3. Why is the contrast between the Tahitian sailor’s dialogue and that of the others important?
4. Why is the Spanish sailor, out of the entire crew, the first to gibe Daggoo about his skin color?
5. What, according to Ishmael, is Moby Dick’s most telling trait?
6. What traits do the theories of Olsson, Povelson, and Cuvier all assign to the sperm whale?
7. Hoe does Ishmael speculate that the White Whale would appear to be “ubiquitous” to be in two places simultaneously?
8. According to Ishmael’s description, what was Ahab doing when Moby Dick took his leg?
9. What, according to Ishmael, gave Ahab the will to recover?
10. Find an example of hyperbole on page 155.
11. What happened to Ahab while recovering?
12. What is the contrast between Ahab and the ship owners?
13. Why are the officers of the Pequod unable to stand in Ahab’s way?

Chapter 42 and 43
1. Why does the color of the whale have such a profound effect of Ishmael?
2. What reason does Ishmael give for his seemingly irrational fear of the color white?
3. What element of suspense is brought up at the end of Chapter 43?
4. Why did the crew take to the hunt with such ferocity, according to Ishmael?

Chapter 44 and 45
1. What leads Ahab to believe that he can find one single whale within the while world to search?
2. How has the narration changed Chapter 44?
3. Why does Ishmael compare Ahab to Prometheus at the end of Chapter forty-four?
4. What, in order, are the items that Ishmael testifies to in his Affidavit?
5. What is the point-of-view in Chapter 45?

Chapter 46 and 47
1. Why does Ishmael consider it wise for Ahab to keep the crew busy hunting other whales when they could have hunted Moby Dick exclusively?
2. What part does the wooden sword play in Ishmael’s analogy?
3. Who spots the first whale aboard the Pequod?
4. Why does Ahab call for the time when the whale is sighted?

Chapter 48 and 49
1. Where have we seen signs of the five “phantoms” before they appear on deck? (Pg. 181)
2. Why do Fedallah and his crew immediately raise suspicion aboard the ship?
3. What makes Stubb’s urgings to his crew unique in Ishmael’s opinion?
4. What position does Fedallah have when the boats are lowered?
5. What is the second masthead that Flask stands on?
6. After the boasts are manned and the chase is underway, what is the general tone of conversation?
7. Who throws the first iron of the voyage, and to what result?
8. How are Starbuck and his crew finally found by the Pequod?
9. What do Stubb and Queequeg think of Starbuck’s decision to chase their quarry into the storm?
10. What does Ishmael do after his rescue?

Chapter 50 and 51
1. Why is Stubb amazed by Ahab’s performance during the first hunt?
2. Why did Ahab go to the trouble of smuggling his own boat crew aboard?
3. How was Ahab observed readying the “spare” boat?
4. Why does the crew accept the strangers so steadily after their initial appearance?
5. “...Beelzebub himself might climb up the side and step down into the cabin to chat with the captain, and it would not create any unsubduable excitement in the forecastle.” (Pg. 192) Why is this statement ironic?
6. What relationship does Fedallah maintain with the crew as a whole?
7. Who first spots the night spout? What literary device does Melville use in the description of the wave, the night, and the spout?
8. What does the crew find as they attempt to hunt the spirit spout? Is Moby Dick, the whale, making the spout? If so, why is this incident repeated?
9. Why is Ahab frustrated as the ship rounds the Cape if Good Hope? Where is the Cape of Good Hope located?
10. How is the Pequod described as it sails through the storm?  
11. What about Ahab’s sleeping form causes Starbuck to shiver?  

Chapter 52 and 53  
1. What is the name of the first ship the Pequod meets in her travels? What is the condition of the other ship?  
2. What response does captain of the new ship give when asked about the white whale?  
3. What destination does Ahab give for his ship?  
4. What problem does Ishmael point out in sailing that specific course?  

Chapter 53 and 54  
1. What is “Gam”?  
2. What practical reason does Ishmael give for the fraternization among whaling crews?  
3. When two whalers prepare for a Gam, where are their respective officers?  
4. What is the Captain's most important duty while approaching the other ship?  
5. How did Ishmael first learn about the incident on the Town-Ho?  
6. What literary device does Melville use to tell the story of Town-Ho?  
7. Where is the Golden Inn located?  
8. How does the Two-Ho’s captain react to the discovery of a leak on his ship?  
9. What reason does Ishmael postulate as the basis for Radney’s pettiness?  
10. Why does Steelkilt object to Radney’s order to sweep the deck?  
11. What is the result of Radney’s threats to Steelkilt?  
12. What condition does Steelkilt place on the obedience of the crewmen who have joined him?  
13. How is Steelkilt finally captured?  
14. What happens to Radney at the end of Ishmael’s story?  
15. Why could this story be considered a “spoiler”? For the rest of the novel? When is this story told, chronologically, in respect to the action aboard the Pequod? What inference can be drawn from the tale?  
16. How is it that Ishmael, who was not even aboard the Town-Ho, knows Steelkilt’s story so well?  

Chapter 55-58  
Note: These four chapters deal with Ishmael’s perceptions of whales and whaling throughout history, and with Right whales. These chapters, like the previous on cetology, do not advance the plot or enhance the symbolic nature of the book. We have not included any questions on these four chapters.  

Chapters 59 and 60  
1. Who initially spots the “strange spectre” in the ocean? (Pg. 230) What is it though to be?  
2. Why does the spectre turn out to be?  
3. Why does Starbuck say, “Almost rather had I seen Moby Dick and fought him, than to have seen thee, thou white ghost!” (Pg. 230)?  
4. What leads Ishmael to believe that squid comprises the main diet of the sperm whale?  
5. Why does the whale-line contain less tar than a standard rope?  
6. What makes the whale-line so dangerous to the men in the boats?
Chapters 61 and 62
1. What is Queequeg's opinion of the "spectre"?
2. Why is Stubb the one to kill the first sperm whale of the voyage?
3. How is it possible that a rowboat, eight or nine men, and a number of ten pound spears can kill a whale weighing many tons?
4. What literary devices are used in the following: "The red tid poured from al sides of the monster like brooks down a hill"? (Pg. 239)
5. What is the final sign that the hunted whale is dead?

Chapters 62 and 63
1. Why does Ishmael assert that only one in ten thrown harpoons finds its target?
2. What are the potential consequences of keeping the second iron in the boat for too long?

Chapters 64 and 65
1. What does Melville say about Ahab's desire to kill only the white whale?
2. What does Stubb eat for dinner on the night he kills the whale?
3. Why is the crew of the Pequod pressed for time as they butcher their kill?
4. What comparison does Melville make in Chapter 64?
5. What is Stubb's opinion of the cook's preparation of his steak?
6. What literary term describes old Fleece's manner of speaking?
7. What argument does the cook use to attempt to carry out Stubb's order? What part of the "sermon" has meaning as a theme?

Chapters 66 and 67
1. Who is given the duty of guarding the whale's body from sharks during the night?
2. How do the guards fend off the sharks?
3. How do the sailors of the Pequod observe the Sabbath following their first kill?
4. What is a boarding sword, and how is it used?

Chapters 68 and 69
1. What proportion does Ishmael give for turning blubber to finished oil?
2. What does Ishmael compare to the scares on a whale's hide?
3. What does Ishmael speculate might be the source of these scars?
4. Who or what attends the whale's "funeral"?
5. What is the dead whale's lasting legacy, according to Ishmael?
6. What does the description of the whale miss?
7. Find an instance of Melville juxtaposing two words to create something that does not exist, but makes sense, despite the incongruity.

Chapters 70 and 71
1. Which piece of the whale's anatomy is kept after the body is disposed of?
2. How is this trophy stored on the ship?
3. What prevents the Jeroboam's crew from holding a gam with the Pequod?
4. Who is in de facto command of the Jeroboam and why?
5. Why does Gabriel advise against hunting the white whale?
6. What happens to the men who lower a boat to hunt Moby Dick despite Gabriel's warnings?
7. Why does Gabriel insist that Ahab keep the letter addressed to Macey? What literary term is implied? Do Gabriel’s warnings remind you if anybody similar that was introduced earlier in Moby Dick?

Chapter 72 and 73
1. Why is Queequeg obliged to stand on the body of the dead whale?
2. How does Queequeg’s position endanger Ishmael?
3. Why does Stubb object to the drink that Dough-boy hands Queequeg after his time on the whale?
4. On whose orders did Dough-boy prepare the drink?
5. Why doles Ahab order the crew to lower for right whales, which they have ignored up to this point?
6. Why does Stubb suggest they throw Fedallah overboard?

Chapters 74, 75, 76, 77
These chapters primarily deal with whale biology, the differences between sperm and right whales, and spermaceti oil. We do not see the necessity of asking questions on these chapters.

Chapters 78 and 79
1. What allows Queequeg time to find Tashtego after he falls overboard?
2. Who is Ishmael referring to when he describes Tashtego’s rescue: “We have thee there. Not at all, but I have ye.”
3. On what basis does Ishmael justify hypothetically deifying the sperm whale?

Chapters 80 and 81
1. Which bone does Ishmael suggest would be a better indication of the whale’s character than the brain?
2. What is the name of the ship the Pequod meets in chapter eighty-one?
3. Why is the ship’s name ironic?
4. What do the mates think about the German whalers during the case after the old bull?
5. How do the Pequod’s harpooners manage to catch the contested whale?
6. Why does a harpooned whale not simply dive deeper to escape the hunters by pulling their boat under water?
7. What is found when the whale is cut open?
8. What happens when Queequeg tries to cut the whale’s body loose from the ship?
9. Why does the Pequod not join the chase for the second whale?
10. Explain the last line in Chapter Eighty-one: “Oh! Many are the fin-backs, and many are the derricks, my friend.” (Pg. 299)

Chapters 82, 83, and 84
1. What classical references does Ishmael give to whaling?
2. What points does Ishmael express doubts with in the story of Jonah?
3. What is “pitchpoling” (Pg. 304)?

Chapters 85 and 86
These chapters deal with specific observations, speculations, theories, and superstitions about various parts of whale anatomy (the spout and the tail). Most of these concepts are scientifically inaccurate and do not advance the
plot or add to the symbolic nature of Moby Dick. We have included no questions on these chapters.

Chapter 87
1. What distinguishes a whaling ship from other ocean vessels in regards to their supplies?
2. Who or what is the Pequod missing as she passes the straits of Sundra?
3. How do the whales that Ahab chases act?
4. Define “drugg” Pg. 319)
5. What makes the pod of whales that the Pequod chases noteworthy?
6. What do Starbuck and Queequeg do? Why?
7. How many whales from the pod does the Pequod succeed in catching?

Chapter 88 and 89
1. Why are some whales called “schoolmasters”?
2. If you were to find a single sperm whale swimming in the sea, what assumption could you make about its age based on Ishmael’s testimony?
3. What country was most effective in legislating whaling, and what were the laws enacted?

Chapter 90 and 91
1. Under what authority does the Duke claim ownership of the dead whale?
2. What is the name of the ship that the Pequod meets next in her travels, and why is its name ironic?
3. Why does the French Mate use Stubb’s visit as a chance to deceive his captain?
4. What is the humor in this chapter?

Chapters 92 and 93
1. What is Ambergris, and why is it valuable?
2. How does Ishmael answer the charge that a whale boat smells and is dirty?
3. Who is Pip, and to which boat is he assigned?
4. What happens to Pip the second time he is involved in a chase?
5. What ironic statement does Stubb make in his explanation?
6. Why is Pip not rescued by one of the other boats the second time he jumps out of the boat?
7. What has happened to Pip as a result of his being alone on the ocean? What literary term is the last sentence of Chapter 93?

Chapters 94 and 95
1. What experience does Ishmael have that provides him with sensual pleasure? What does he have visions about that night?

Chapters 96 and 97
1. What is a try-works?
2. While the blubber boils at night, the fire nearly burns the workers. Ishmael compares the scene to the fires of Hell. To what else does he compare it?
3. What happens while Ishmael takes his turn at the wheel, and why?
4. What convenience does a whale boat over other sea faring vessels?

Chapters 98 and 99
1. What is the main point Ishmael is making in chapter ninety-eight?
2. What country was the doubloon minted in?
3. Who does Stubb predict will collect the doubloon?
4. What does Ahab see in the coin? What does Starbuck see?
5. What might be symbolic about the doubloon?

Chapters 100 and 101
1. Why does Ahab get along well with the captain of the Samuel Enderby?
2. How does the story-telling between the captain and the doctor anger Ahab?
3. Why did the English Ship not lower the boat in their subsequent encounters with Moby Dick?
4. What alarms Captain Bunker about Ahab during the meeting?
5. Find a statement by Ahab that shows his unconcern for safety, death, or danger.

Chapters 102-105
Again, Melville has included chapters dealing with the esoteric and minutia of sperm whale anatomy; some of his facts are false, as modern science now understands them.

Chapters 106 and 107
1. How is Ahab's artificial leg damaged?
2. Ishmael states some philosophical beliefs he has. What is the most important?
3. Who is given the duty of replacing the damaged limb?
4. What duties does the ship's carpenter assume in addition to those of a traditional carpenter?

Chapters 108 and 109
1. What is different stylistically in Chapter 108
2. What does the carpenter mean with the comment that "...a short, little old body like me, should never undertake to wade out to deep waters with tall, heron-built captains; the water chucks you under the chin pretty quick, and there's a great cry for lifeboats"? (Pg. 389)
3. What is Ahab's initial reaction to the report that the casks of oil in the hold are leaking?
4. What, in your opinion, causes Ahab to change his mind and follow Starbuck's advice? What words of advice does Starbuck give?

Chapters 110 and 111
"The hollow hull echoed under foot, as if you were treading over empty catacombs, and reeled and rolled in the sea like an air-frighted demijohn." (Pg. 392)
1. What literary terms are used in the above quotation?
2. What does Queequeg ask the carpenter to make for him and why?
3. How does Queequeg explain his sudden recovery? What metaphysical question does he answer?
4. Why is the Pequod's arrival in the Japanese whaling grounds significant to Ahab?

Chapter 112 and 113
1. Why does the ship's blacksmith fire his forge so late in the journey?
2. Why did the blacksmith give up his family and shop to go to sea?
3. What seam does the blacksmith admit to being unable to repair?
4. What does Ahab use to temper his harpoon?
5. Translate the Latin blessing Ahab makes into English. Why is it important?

Chapters 114 and 115
1. Why was the crew of the Bachelor in festive mood?
2. What is the Bachelor’s response to Ahab’s traditional query?

Chapters 116 and 117
1. How many whales does the Pequod catch on the day after she encounters the Bachelor?
2. What purpose does the Bachelor serve?
3. What are the four prophecies Fedallah makes in regards to Ahab’s demise?
4. What is Ahab’s reaction to these prophecies?

Chapters 118 and 119
1. How will the Pequod navigate without her quadrant? What is Ahab upset?
2. Which of the whaling boats is damaged in the typhoon? What are “elbowed lances of fire”? (Pg. 413)
3. What are the Candles” that are referenced throughout chapter 119?
4. Why do Stubb and Ahab take the fires to be good omens?
5. At the end of chapter 119, a fourth “candle” is lit. What is it and how is it lit?

Chapters 120 and 121
1. Explain the argument that takes place in chapter 120.
2. Earlier in the book, Stubb has mentioned a certain amount of anxiety concerning his association with the Pequod and with Ahab in particular. What makes him change his mind?

Chapters 122 and 123
1. What is Starbucks debating as he goes to report the end of the storm to Ahab?
2. Why does Starbuck order Stubb to report the ship’s condition to Ahab?

Chapters 124 and 125
1. Why does Ahab not believe the helmsman when he hears their heading?
2. What is the cause of the malfunction?
3. How does Ahab solve the problem? What does the crew feel about him?
4. What is the purpose of “heaving the log”? (Pg. 425)
5. What happens to the log-and-line after it is cast out?
6. What, if any, is the thematic importance of the lost line?
7. What whom is Ahab connected? What is the effect?

Chapters 126 and 127
1. What happens to the Pequod’s life buoy? What is the significance of the sailor’s death?
2. What replaces the lost buoy?
3. Why does Ahab accuse the carpenter of being unprincipled?
4. What are the cries of recently drowned sailors, according to Ahab?

Chapters 128 and 129
1. How did the Rachael lose her boat?
2. What can you infer about Ahab’s question as to whether Moby Dick has been killed?
3. Why is the Rachael’s captain investing an uncommon amount of time in his search for the lost boat?
4. Why does Ahab threaten Pip’s life as the boy follows him around the deck?
5. What irony is present in the contrast between Captain Gardiner’s behavior and Ahab’s?

Chapters 130 and 131
1. Why does the mood onboard the Pequod shift in chapter 130?
2. What makes Ahab decide to begin standing his own shift at the mast head?
3. What happens to Ahab’s hat?
4. What was the result of the Delight’s meeting with Moby Dick?
5. What is the other captain’s opinion of Moby Dick?

Chapter 132 and 133
1. What makes the dialogue in chapter 132 unique, as opposed to the rest of the novel?
2. Who is the first to spot Moby Dick? Why is this important?
3. What does Melville compare Moby Dick to on page 447?
4. Where does the whale reappear after he dives?
5. Why are Ahab and his crew unable to attack Moby Dick as he chew on their boat?
6. Why do the other boats not attack the whale after Ahab’s boat is destroyed?
7. How are Ahab and his crew allowed to escape being killed by the thrashing whale?
8. How many casualties does Moby Dick inflict on the Pequod’s crew during their first encounter?

Chapter 134 and 135
1. Why does Ahab take to the mast head on the second day of the chase?
2. How is the white whale finally spotted on the second day? How are the whale and its actions described?
3. How does the whale react to the approach of the Pequod’s boats?
4. On the second day, three harpoons are successfully attached to the whale. Why do the crew cut the lines?
5. Once again, Moby Dick successfully disables one of the Pequod’s boats. Whose and how? What happens to Ahab?
6. How many casualties does the white whale inflict on the second lowering and how?
7. What does Ahab say is the reason for continuing the pursuit of Moby Dick?
8. What is ironic about Ahab meeting the whale? “[f]orehead to forehead”? (Pg. 461)
9. What is the allusion that says Moby Dick is “possessed by all the angels that fell from heaven”? (Pg. 464)
10. How are Fedallah’s four prophecies fulfilled?
11. How is Ishmael able to survive the wreek of the Pequod?
12. How is the rescue of Ishmael ironic?
Moby Dick

Vocabulary

Chapter 1
Circumambulate — walk around
Tribulation — problem, difficulty

Chapter 2
Dubious — doubtful
Extant — in existence

Chapter 3
Delineate — explain
Diabolic — evil

Chapter 4
Labyrinth — maze
Beseching — pleading with

Chapter 5
Bountiful — plentiful
Imminent — about to happen
Congregated — collected together

Chapter 6
Omnipotent — all powerful
Spermaceti — whale oil

Chapter 7
Incredulous — astounded; not believing
Countenance — face
Forfeiture — the giving up of something

Chapter 8
Tarpaulin — a covering
Maritime — related to the sea
Dexterity — skill

Chapter 9
Stanza — section of a poem or song
Contemptible — worthless; dishonorable
Parricide — killing of a parent
Counterfeit — false
Annihilation — destruction
Benediction — blessing

Chapter 10
Heathenish — like a pagan or disbeliever
Uncouth — unsophisticated
Dyspeptic — gloomy; irritable

Chapter 11
Confabulation — conversation

Chapter 12
Idolater — worshipper of idols

Chapter 13
Punctilious — exact; particular
Magnanimity — generosity

Chapter 14
Circumnavigation — circling

Chapter 16
Remonstrance — protest; objection; disapproval
Acquiesce — giving in
Innuendo — hint
Indolence — laziness
Impenitent — not sorry

Chapter 17
Inordinate — unnecessary
Apoplexy — hemorrhage
Chapter 18
Bulwark — defense

Chapter 19
Ineffable — inexpressible

Chapter 21
Insinuate — hint at
Impertinent — insolent
Benevolent — kind

Chapter 26
Superfluous — unnecessary
Chronometer — timepiece
Ignominious — humiliating

Chapter 27
Impious — sacrilegious

Chapter 28
Peremptory — ending all argument
Perturbation — agitation
Preternatural — out of the natural
Fortitude — strength

Chapter 29
Deprecate — belittle, disapprove

Chapter 32
Cetology — study of whales
Leviathan — huge; also used as a noun-synonym for “whale”
Surmise — guess

Chapter 33
Punctilious — attend to small details

Chapter 34
Portentous — full of wonder
Tumult — confusion

Chapter 35
Serene — calm
Languor — laziness

Chapter 36
Blasphemous — irreverent
Chalice — cup

Chapter 39
Malignant — evil
Pagoda — Japanese temple

Chapter 41
Morbid — unwholesome; connected to death
Vicissitude — variation; changeability
Intrepid — brave
Malignity — evil
Monomaniac — obsessed with one thing
Corporeal — of the flesh

Chapter 42
Abhorrent — hated

Chapter 43
Cordon — encircle

Chapter 44
Ratification — approval
Somnambulistic — like sleepwalking

Chapter 45
Substantiate — support with evidence
Gregarious — outgoing, friendly

Chapter 46
Sepulchre — tomb
Usurp — take, steal
Vigilance — watchfulness

Chapter 48
Conjecture — guess
Oblique — not straightforward

Chapter 50
Jeopardize — put in danger
Conceit — idea, thought
Chapter 51
Repugnance — disgust

Chapter 52
Ominous — threatening

Chapter 53
Prodigious — huge
Ostentatious — showy

Chapter 54
Aggregate — total
Agrarian — related to farming
Solicitude — concern; anxiety
Intimation — hint

Chapter 55
Heinous — horrible
Instigation — beginning
Distend — swollen
Delineation — depiction
Undulation — wavelike motion

Chapter 56
Frontispiece — first page of a book
Picturesque — pretty; vivid
Obliquely — at an angle

Chapter 57
Rueful — compassion; regret
Lexicon — dictionary

Chapter 58
Recumbent — lying down
Azure — blue

Chapter 59
Languid — weak; lacking energy

Chapter 61
Denizen — resident

Chapter 63
Audacious — reckless; bold
Elucidate — make clear

Chapter 64
Quiescence — inactivity
Mastication — chewing

Chapter 65
Fastidious — neat

Chapter 67
Sundry — various

Chapter 68
Integument — covering
Palisade — fortification

Chapter 70
Venerable — old and respected
Frigate — ship

Chapter 71
Ascendancy — rising up
Perdition — damnation

Chapter 72
Interregnum — a gap in time

Chapter 73
Gamboge — yellow

Chapter 74
Vacillation — oscillation; indecision

Chapter 76
Provincial — narrow-minded

Chapter 79
Physiognomist — one who studies the face
Phrenologist — one who studies irregularities in the skull

Chapter 81
Indubitably — undoubtedly
Ulceration — development of an ulcer
Encumbrance — burden
Chapter 82
Sordid — dirty
Demigod — nearly a god

Chapter 83
Impious — lacking reverence

Chapter 84
Uncutuousness — flattery
Presentiment — foreknowledge

Chapter 86
Contemptuously — with disdain

Chapter 87
Armada — large group of ships
Contrivance — trick
Momentum — forward motion

Chapter 89
Brevity — short
Apostolic — related to the church

Chapter 91
Defunct — dead; not existing
Olfactory — sense of smell

Chapter 92
Dyspepsia — morose; gloomy condition

Chapter 95
Enigmatic — mysterious

Chapter 96
Misanthrope — one who hates humanity
Gesticulate — gesture

Chapter 98
Ablution — washing

Chapter 99
Doubloon — gold coin

Chapter 100
Facetious — humorous

Chapter 101
Decanter — holder for liquid
Auspice — support; protection

Chapter 102
Ultimatum — final statement
Veritable — actual

Chapter 104
Expatiate — writing at length
Behove — was necessary
Emprise — an undertaking

Chapter 105
Fallacious — false, faulty
Citadel — fortress

Chapter 106
Potentate — ruler; dictator

Chapter 108
Ferule — flat piece of wood

Chapter 110
Consternation — worry
Congenial — friendly
Countenance — face

Chapter 112
Petulance — slight irritation
Artisan — craftsman

Chapter 114
Verdure — greenness
Vale — small valley
Filial — relating to a son or daughter

Chapter 116
Plaintiveness — sadness

Chapter 119
Pallid — pale
Corposant — luminous aura
Imprecate — invoke curses
Phosphorescence — slight glowing
Chapter 123
Spasmodic — muscular contraction
Abated — lessened

Chapter 125
Subservient — inferior
Omniscient — all-knowing

Chapter 127
Conduit — tube for moving liquids

Chapter 129
Transom — opening over a door
Malady — illness

Chapter 130
Sagacious — wise
Twain — pair

Chapter 131
Tempered — hardened

Chapter 132
Firmament — areas of sky

Chapter 134
Invincible — undefeatable
Collateral — not central; tangential
Indolent — lazy

Chapter 135
Direful — dreadful; awful
Prescient — having knowledge of the future

Epilogue
Vortex — like a whirlpool