

Q1. possible answers (check mark scheme for more):

- There were noises in the ship
- There was water in the ship/the ship was flooding
- There were stairs on the ship
- It was dark - power cut?
- The ship was in a wreck/about to sink

Q2.

Firstly, the writer uses a lot of rhetorical questions to show how frightened and confused the narrator is: in the first paragraph, "Where were the officers and the crew? What were they doing?" and in the second paragraph there are three rhetorical questions in a row. This gives the reader an insight into how many questions were spinning round in the narrator's head and how confused he was by the situation.

Secondly, his choice of vocabulary shows how scary this experience was: "monstrous metallic burp" "collective scream of humans and animals" "death." The combination of alliteration and use of sound in "monstrous metallic burp" heightens the sense of fear, giving the impression that the ship is like a monster who will swallow them up. Phrases like "collective scream" and "oncoming death" demonstrates how serious and fatal this situation is, and gives the reader a clear impression that the narrator is fearing for his life.

Additionally, there are some very short sentences: "I fell over. I got to my feet. I looked overboard again. The sea was rising..." Each of these sentences is very simple: one subject, one verb. This builds a sense that the narrator is panicking: he can't form complicated thoughts, and each action and sight hits him without giving him time to process it. The short, simple sentences also build a fast pace, showing how quickly everything was happening and how confusing everything must be.

Finally, the narrator uses adjectives to further intensify his fright and confusion: An ox is described as "terrified, out of control, beserk." The use of three adjectives in a row really give the impression that the ox is both scared and dangerous. He then describes his own emotions using adjectives: "dumbstruck and amazed," emphasising how shocking and confusing this event was.

Q3

The text starts in confusion and ends in confusion but with a different focus as the chapter progresses. The narrator starts by describing noises and sights inside the ship. At first he does not realise the seriousness of the situation, illustrated by short sentences like "no harm done." Then he starts to realise what is happening when he sees "water. Lots of water." The minor sentence and the repetition interests the reader as we see it slowly dawn on the narrator that the ship is in big trouble.

The second paragraph interests the reader through short sentences containing lots of action: "I ran up the stairs. I got to the main deck..." the continued short sentences heighten the narrator's sense of panic and engage the reader as we follow the character in our mind's eye.

Rhetorical questions open the third paragraph and give the reader an insight into the narrator's fears. "Where were the officers and the crew?" He also starts mentioning animals, but at first "dismissed the sight as an illusion." The reader may realise, though, that this was not an illusion.

The last part of the extract shifts the focus to thinking about the officers, crew, and how he might be saved. The chapter has a shocking ending "they threw me overboard" - a cliffhanger which will leave readers desperate to move on to the next chapter to find out what happened when he hit the water.

Q4

Any reader would feel very sympathetic for the writer in this situation, because of the dire situation he is in, his lack of understanding about what is happening, and the way his expectations are so dreadfully let down at the end of the chapter.

Firstly, the narrator is clearly in an awful situation. His descriptions of the "monstrous metallic burp," "monkeys shrieking" and an ox exploding give the reader a clear impression of the absolute chaos he is experiencing. We feel sorry for him because he is clearly so lost and confused, asking himself questions like "what was it?" "who in God's name had let it out?"

Secondly, the narrator, though scared, does not seem to fully understand the seriousness of the situation. From the way he speaks/writes, he comes across as a really honest person who is genuinely worried and scared in this shipwreck: "We were sinking fast." This impression is further built up when he speaks to the crew members: "Thank God I've found you. What is happening? I am very scared... I am worried about my family." Here, the simplicity of his language shows him to be naive and innocent, adding to the sense of sympathy. The reader may have already realised that his family may already be dead, as water filled the lower levels of the ship, but the narrator simply asks "is this normal?" showing how little life experience he has.

He also doesn't understand when the crew talk to him: "They spoke a few words." "shouted something in Chinese." From the way these men aren't communicating clearly with the narrator, the reader gets an ominous feeling that something even worse is going to happen, especially when they "interrupted" his question. As a reader, we feel concerned for the narrator and very sympathetic, as the student said.

Finally, the chapter ends with the men throwing him overboard. The writer has deliberately done this to create a cliffhanger for the reader - what will happen when he reaches the sea? Will he survive? By now, we are invested in the character and feeling both sympathetic and empathetic for him. We can also see how his expectations were let down terribly: he thought

the men were going to help him, and said he “felt grateful,” so it is all the more saddening when they threw him overboard, to an unknown fate.

Overall, through a combination of the way the narrator speaks and writes, his naivety, and the dreadful things that happen to him, the writer has built up a very sympathetic picture for the reader.