We Didn’t Mean to Go to Sea

1 Who said this in the story? Daddy, Mother, Jim Bradying, Susan, John.
   a ‘I’ll be back in ten minutes.’ ........................
   b ‘We can’t stop. Remember what Jim said –
      “Keep away from shoals. Get out to sea and stay
      there.”’ ........................
   c ‘We’ve got to go back. We promised.’
      ........................
   d ‘I’ve been sitting on a train doing nothing for
      days and days.’ ........................
   e ‘Didn’t you promise that you would be back
      yesterday?’ ........................

2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?
   a __ The children had never spent the night on a
      boat before.
   b __ Jim Bradying didn’t know much about
      sailing.
   c __ Jim lived on the boat all year.
   d __ There were three anchors on the Goblin.
   e __ Susan and Titty both felt seasick.
   f __ The pilot wanted to meet the captain of the
      boat.
   g __ The children weren’t surprised to see their
      father.
   h __ The children telephoned Mother to tell her
      they were in Holland.
   i __ The children bought some shoes in Holland.
   j __ When the children returned, Mother was
      angry at first.

3 Put the following events in the story in the correct order. Number them 1-10.
   a __ Jim left the Goblin and went ashore, leaving
      the children alone.
   b __ The children sailed to Holland.
   c __ The children arrived at Pin Mill to stay with
      Miss Powell.
   d __ Daddy sailed the ship back to England and
      they met Mother.
   e __ The anchor broke and the boat began to drift.
   f __ The children met Jim for the first time.
   g __ Mother agreed that the children could spend
      the night on the Goblin.
   h __ The children met Daddy.
   i __ Jim came to the children’s house for dinner.
   j __ The children went to sea with Jim in the
      Goblin.

4 Answer these questions.
   a What did Jim Bradying promise to Mother?
      ..............................................................
   b Why did Jim leave the Goblin and go ashore?
      ..............................................................
   c What happened to Jim when he went ashore?
      ..............................................................
   d Where did Jim have to go when he went ashore?
      ..............................................................

5 Where in the story did …? Match a number from A with a letter from B.
   A
   1 __ … Jim fell asleep on the dinner table.
   2 __ … the children find a cat called Sinbad.
   3 __ … the children see Daddy.
   4 __ … John fall down.
   5 __ … the children meet Jim for the first time.

   B
   a On the river.
   b At the children’s house.
   c On a box, at sea.
   d On a ferry, going to England.
   e From the mast of the boat.
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Arthur Ransome

Setting

Choose the best answer.
1. There were _______ Walker children.
   a □ four  b □ five  c □ two  d □ three
2. The Goblin had got _______.
   a □ sails  b □ an engine  c □ sails and an engine  d □ neither sails nor an engine
3. When you’re sailing and it’s dark or foggy, the best thing to do is _______.
   a □ come into harbour  b □ start your engine  c □ go out to sea  d □ stay still
4. The sound of the foghorn meant that _______.
   a □ there was fog in the harbour  b □ there was fog out at sea  c □ there was no wind  d □ there was wind out at sea
5. When they passed the Beach End buoy _______.
   a □ they were near a shoal  b □ they were at sea  c □ the fog became thicker  d □ the wind got stronger
6. They had to sail _______ to avoid the shoals.
   a □ south  b □ east  c □ south-west  d □ south-east
7. When John was making the sail smaller, he _______.
   a □ fell in the sea  b □ fell onto the deck  c □ hit his head  d □ hurt his hand
8. As she listened to the wind and rain, Mother was _______.
   a □ happy  b □ angry  c □ sad  d □ worried
9. The cat was on _______.
   a □ a buoy  b □ a piece of wood  c □ a box  d □ a bottle
10. John knew the fishing boats weren’t English because _______.
    a □ their sails were different  b □ they had a Dutch flag  c □ the fishermen were speaking Dutch  d □ the fishermen were wearing wooden shoes

Dialogue

Who said or thought this?
21. ‘I’m glad you know how to tie a rope.’
   a □ Jim Brading  b □ Miss Powell  c □ Roger  d □ Titty
22. ‘Look out for your steering.’
   a □ Jim  b □ John  c □ Susan  d □ Titty
23. ‘She’s pulling her anchor off the bottom.’
   a □ Susan  b □ Jim  c □ John  d □ Roger
24. ‘We can’t keep a promise that’s already broken’
   a □ Susan  b □ John  c □ Titty  d □ Roger
25. ‘You keep the tiller. I’ll go down and get the chart.’
   a □ John  b □ Roger  c □ Titty  d □ Susan
26. ‘But what if the Goblin doesn’t get back in time?’
   a □ Miss Powell  b □ Mother  c □ Bridget  d □ Jim
27. ‘Let’s call it Sinbad.’
   a □ John  b □ Roger  c □ Titty  d □ Susan
28. ‘Now go and call your captain.’
   a □ Father  b □ the pilot  c □ John  d □ Roger

Characters

Choose the best answer.
11. Jim Brading _______.
    a □ had just finished university  b □ had just finished school  c □ was at university  d □ lived in Scotland
12. Miss Powell _______.
    a □ had known Jim since he was a child  b □ knew Jim a little bit  c □ had never met Jim before  d □ was Jim’s cousin

20 marks

20 marks
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29 ‘Mother will be terribly worried.’
   a □ John   b □ Roger   c □ Titty   d □ Susan

30 ‘Daddy’ll tell them that we didn’t mean to go to sea.’
   a □ Susan   b □ Roger   c □ Titty   d □ John

Vocabulary

Choose the best answer.

31 a place where the water is shallow
   a □ beach   b □ harbour   c □ buoy   d □ shoal

32 the way a ship is going
   a □ course   b □ voyage   c □ journey   d □ trip

33 to go down under water
   a □ drown   b □ sink   c □ wash   d □ swim

34 someone who guides a boat into harbour
   a □ captain   b □ pilot   c □ sailor   d □ swimmer

35 to move something which guides a boat or car
   a □ drive   b □ turn   c □ steer   d □ bend

36 a message sent quickly by electricity or radio
   a □ postcard   b □ letter   c □ telegraph   d □ telegram

37 behaving badly
   a □ lazy   b □ poor   c □ naughty   d □ shout

38 to tie a ship to something to keep it in one place
   a □ stop   b □ moor   c □ park   d □ pull

39 a group of people who work together on a ship
   a □ team   b □ club   c □ crew   d □ class

40 a boat that takes people across a river or sea
   a □ ferry   b □ yacht   c □ tiller   d □ ship

Plot

Choose the best answer.

41 The Walker children were waiting to meet their father at _____.
   a □ Dover   b □ Harwich   c □ Pin Mill   d □ Shotley

42 Jim said that he would _____.
   a □ let the children help him   b □ take the children on his boat   c □ take the children to sea   d □ only take the children on the river

43 They stopped for the night at _____.
   a □ Harwich   b □ Pin Mill   c □ Ipswich   d □ Shotley

44 The Goblin started to pull the anchor off the bottom because _____.
   a □ the tide was very strong   b □ the wind was very strong   c □ the chain wasn’t long enough   d □ Jim hadn’t put the anchor down

45 Susan was unhappy because _____.
   a □ she was feeling sick   b □ something had happened to Jim   c □ they had broken their promise   d □ she was frightened of the sea

46 The ferry almost hit the Goblin because _____.
   a □ the Goblin had no lights   b □ the ferry had no lights   c □ it was very foggy   d □ the ferry didn’t hear the Goblin’s foghorn

47 When John looked up at the Dutch ferry, he saw _____.
   a □ his mother   b □ his father   c □ the pilot   d □ Jim

48 Mr Walker wanted the telegram to be sent from Shotley so that _____.
   a □ Mrs Walker wouldn’t know they had sailed to Holland   b □ Jim wouldn’t know they had sailed to Holland   c □ he could pay the pilot   d □ his friend could tell Mrs Walker what had happened

49 Jim left the boat to get some more _____.
   a □ petrol   b □ food   c □ water   d □ tools

50 Jim couldn’t tell Mrs Walker what had happened because _____.
   a □ he was afraid   b □ he was in hospital   c □ it was raining   d □ he couldn’t remember