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Choosing a Title

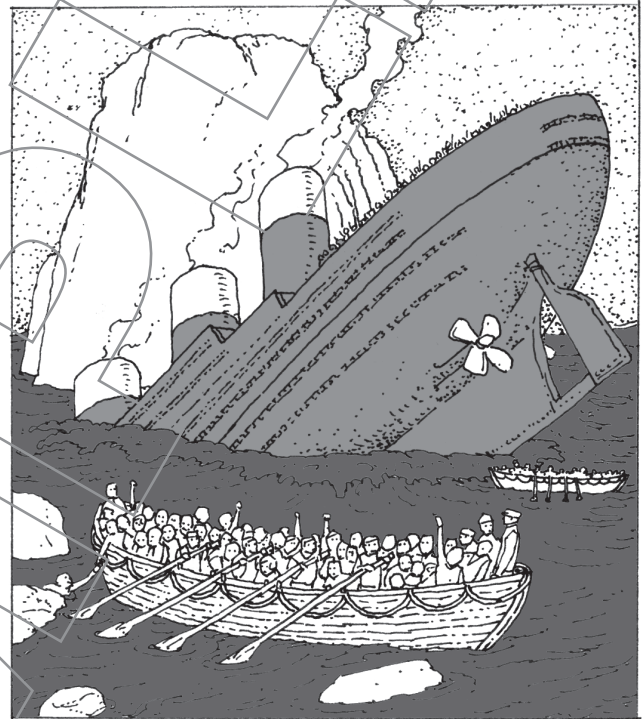
Another way of summarizing the main idea is by choosing the best **title**. The title “Musk Oxen: Man’s Best Friend?” told you something about the main idea of the last selection. Can you think of another title that might have expressed it better? “Shaggy Protectors” might have helped you predict the main idea more exactly.

Read the passage. Then answer the question that follows.

Sometimes fiction becomes fact. In 1898, an American writer named Morgan Robinson wrote a book he called *Futility*. It was the story of a British ship that struck an iceberg and sank. The ship was named the *Titan*, after a race of giants in an ancient myth. In Robinson’s story, the *Titan* was crowded with passengers, both wealthy and poor.

Fourteen years later, on the night of April 14, 1912, the British ship *Titanic* hit an iceberg in the North Atlantic Ocean. The *Titanic* was supposed to be the safest ship in the world, yet it sank in about two and a half hours. Because there were not enough lifeboats, more than 1,500 people died.

As you may have guessed, *Titanic* is the adjective form of the word *Titan*. Like Robinson’s fictional ship, the *Titanic* was filled with both rich and poor passengers. Robinson’s work of fiction had become all too real.



Which is the *best* title for this article?

- A “When Fiction Became Fact”
- B “The Sea Cares Not for Gold”
- C “The *Titanic*”
- D “The *Titan* and the *Titanic*”

Choosing
a
Title

What is the main idea of this article? Is it about the sinking of the *Titanic*? Is it that two ships had similar names? Is it that both rich and poor lost their lives? These are details that support the main idea or that make it more interesting: A famous true sea disaster eerily paralleled a fictional one described in a book 14 years earlier. The correct answer is choice A.

The camels had been restless all day. They knew we were approaching water hours before the tops of the palm trees appeared waveringly on the horizon. They bellowed, stamped, and strained at their tethers. It was all that Father and the other drovers could do to keep them from bolting. But they were experts, and by pleading and tugging, snarling and cursing, they kept the beasts in check until we were a hundred or so cubits from the oasis. Then nothing could hold them back—or me either.

Dakhla was my first sight of mighty Egypt. It was disappointing. It was an oasis like any other: rude shelters of sun-baked mud brick for the traders and their wares, an enclosure for the camels, date palms, and a spring of precious water. After 40 days crossing the desert, I expected more. Where were the magnificent temples I had heard about? Where were the tombs of the kings, climbing halfway to the sky? Where were the rich fields of grain, watered by the river Nile? Where, for that matter, was the Nile?

“Don’t worry, they’re all there,” Father said, pointing in the distance. “We shall see them, and we shall have gold and silver in our purses. But first we have some hard trading to do. The Pharaoh’s officer may look like a pampered city-bred man, but he’s no fool. And neither am I!”

The Pharaoh’s officer wore a splendid robe of white linen and a necklace of gold. He looked as proud as a king himself, yet the Pharaoh had a thousand such to carry out his commands. He bargained with my father over the price of each camel. He could tell at a glance a camel’s age and, if a female, whether she was pregnant. He wrote down figures with a reed stylus, not on a clay tablet but on a thin sheet, like a white leaf. And not only numbers—dozens of picture-signs, each surely with its own meaning. No wonder Egypt was so strong, if they could write signs to express so many ideas!

1 Which would be the *best* title for this story?

- A “Adventure in the Desert”
- B “A Herd of Camels”
- C “Journey to Egypt”
- D “At the Pyramids”

2 What is the *main* thing that happens in paragraph 1?

- A The narrator catches his first sight of Egypt.
- B Camels grow restless when they smell water.
- C A group of traders reach a desert trading post.
- D The narrator’s father has to handle a herd of camels.

3 How long did it take the narrator and his group to cross the desert?

- A one week
- B 10 days
- C a month
- D 40 days

Choosing
a
Title

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So You Want to Be a Cartoonist?

Rhodes University School of Fine Arts is offering a special summer workshop for students in grades 7–12. Learn techniques for drawing newspaper funnies, comic books, single-panel cartoons, and manga, including story development. Whether you're an experienced artist or a beginner, you'll learn from our staff of experts as you develop your skills at your own pace. Cost for the two-week session, including all materials and a CD of your finished work, is \$649.00. Scholarships are available. For further information call 1-800-555-TOON (555-8666) or point your browser to www.rhodesu.edu/fa.



- 1 This selection is mainly—
 - A announcing Rhodes University's classes and programs
 - B aimed at students interested in drawing comic books
 - C offering teens a chance to meet famous cartoonists
 - D advertising a cartooning workshop for teens
- 2 Which statement is *not* true?
 - A The workshop costs \$649.00.
 - B There are no classes in animation.
 - C The workshop is only for beginners.
 - D Student work will be recorded on CD.

Winsor McCay was a newspaper cartoonist of a century ago. His comic strip *Little Nemo in Slumberland* appeared in Sunday funnies across the country. In 1911, McCay tried something new. He began developing an animated cartoon to be shown in movie theaters. Animation then

was new and difficult. McCay had to create and photograph 10,000 separate drawings. It took him two years to complete *Gertie the Dinosaur*. But audiences loved it. Gertie was the first animated character with personality. For years afterward, no movie show was complete without a cartoon.

- 1 What is the *best* title for this article?
 - A "Winsor McCay"
 - B "Gertie the Dinosaur"
 - C "The First Cartoon Hit"
 - D "How Animation was Invented"
- 2 About how many drawings did McCay make for *Gertie the Dinosaur*?
 - A 1,000
 - B 1,900
 - C 6,000
 - D 10,000