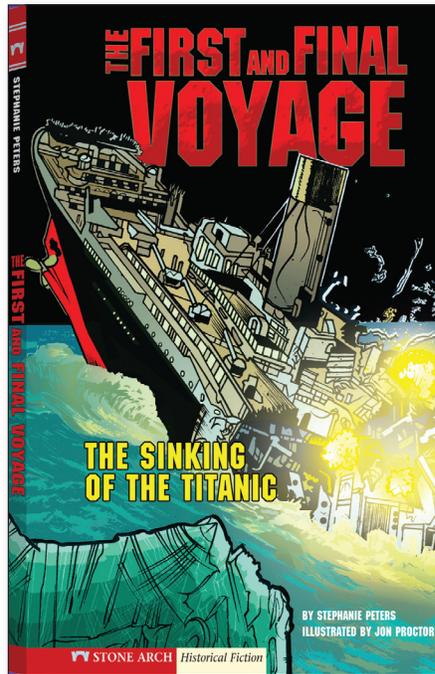




READER'S THEATER (Teacher's Version)



The First and Final Voyage by Stephanie Peters

PAPERBACK ISBN: 978-1-4342-0494-3
HARDCOVER ISBN: 978-1-4342-0444-8

Characters:

- William** – struggling reader
- Christopher** – reads at grade level
- Mrs. Watkins** – reads slightly below grade level
- Mr. James Anderson** – reads below grade level
- Narrator** – reads above grade level

Genre: Historical Fiction

Ages: 8-12

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First and Final Voyage page 1

Narrator:

The year is 1912 in Southampton England. Christopher Watkins turns the corner and stops in his tracks. Ahead of him was the greatest ship ever built, the *Titanic*. Christopher was looking at the ship's ticket in his hand. Christopher was with his mother and brother, William. They were getting close to the loading area.

Christopher:

I still can't believe that we are going to be on that ship on her very first voyage. This ship is huge!

Mr. Anderson:

Are you the Watkins family? I am James Anderson. Your father Mr. Watkins asked me to watch over you during your trip.

Narrator:

Mr. Anderson led them to the gangplank for passengers in second class.

William:

She sure is big!

Christopher:

The biggest ever. She is 175 feet tall. That's as tall as 30 men standing on each other's shoulders. She's got a swimming pool, a gymnasium, restaurants, two libraries, and even a post office. She's the greatest ship ever built, William.

William:

Did you hear all that Mother?

Mrs. Watkins:

You sure have a good memory, Christopher. But I don't care how great the newspaper says the *Titanic* is. I just want to get to New York safely.

Narrator:

Christopher could see the worry on his mother's face. He remembered how his father told him before they left how Christopher was the man of the family until they arrived in New York. Christopher decided to take his mother's hand.

Christopher:

There's no need to worry, Mother. We'll be with Father in seven days.

Mr. Anderson:

Maybe sooner than seven days if Captain Smith decides to see how fast the ship can go.

Mrs. Watkins:

I prefer safety over speed, Mr. Anderson.

First and Final Voyage page 2

- Mr. Anderson:** Christopher, you seem interested in the *Titanic*. Would you like to have a look below the decks and see what makes her go?
- Christopher:** Would I ever! May I, Mother?
- Narrator:** Mrs. Watkins was nervous but after Mr. Anderson reassured her it was safe, she agreed to let Christopher go. The *Titanic's* three whistles sounded. Moments later the ship came to life. The *Titanic* shook and started to slowly move away from the dock. Christopher was enjoying the ship's movement when all of the sudden...
- Christopher:** Oh no, Mr. Anderson! Come quickly!
- Mr. Anderson:** It's the ship, the *New York*. The *Titanic's* suction must have pulled her free from the docks!
- Christopher:** She is going to ram us.
- Narrator:** Luckily the collision never came.
- William:** What happened?
- Mr. Anderson:** We must have reversed the ship in time. Look. Here come the tugboats to steer the *New York* away from us.
- Christopher:** Come on William, we should go check on Mother.
- Narrator:** When Christopher and William found their mother they could tell she was scared. Her face was white.
- Mrs. Watkins:** What a terrible sign! We're not even out of port yet! Thank goodness the *New York* didn't hit us!
- Christopher:** Even if she had, nothing would have happened, Mother. Everyone knows that the *Titanic* is unsinkable!
- Narrator:** During the next few days Christopher looked after his brother and mother just like he promised his father. Then on the fourth night of their journey to the city of New York, Christopher was woken up by a loud rumble.

First and Final Voyage page 3

Christopher:

Mother and William are still asleep. I am going to find out what woke me up.

Narrator:

Christopher swung out of bed and put on his jacket and left his cabin. What was the noise? Is the ship in danger? Read *The First and Final Voyage* to find out what happens to Christopher, his family, and the world's biggest ship.

THE END