



武汉大学

Wuhan University



# Unit 16

"Take over, Bos'n"



# Text comprehension

- Warming-up questions:
- 1. How do you feel when you watch the movie Titanic, especially when the ship began to sink? Can you imagine the feelings of the survivors who were dying and those who were drifting on the sea waiting to be rescued?
- 2. What do you think is the relationship between crewmen on a ship? Is there any difference between their relationship and that of “land” people?



武汉大学

Wuhan University



## Text comprehension: Related information

- **About the author:** Oscar Schisgall, novelist, short-story writer, some of whose works include *the Death Pit* (1923), *In Kashla's Garden* (1927), *One of the Judds* (1931), and *The Blood Call* (1939).



## Text comprehension

- **Crew on a ship:** A ship is under the command of a captain, and below him (especially on a merchant ship) is the first mate or first officer, then second mate or second officer, etc. A steward is an officer on a passenger ship who looks after the needs of the passengers, and a boatswain is an officer on especially a merchant ship in charge of the ship's general equipment. A common person who works on a ship is called a sailor.



武汉大学

Wuhan University



## Text comprehension

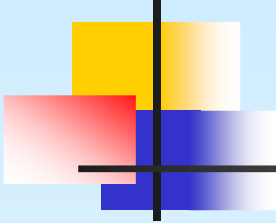
- **Bos'n**: variant of “boatswain”, referring to a petty officer on a merchant ship having charge of hull maintenance and related work.



武汉大学

Wuhan University



- 
- A decorative graphic consisting of overlapping colored squares (yellow, red, blue) and a black crosshair.
- 
- Pair work:
  - Tell the story to your partner, then discuss with each other to find out the theme of the story and the structure of the text.



武汉大学

Wuhan University



## theme

- Through a detailed description of Jeff Barrett, the author builds up the image of a strong and dangerous man, a constant threat to the hope of the survivors on the lifeboat. Readers are surprised to find that in the end he was the very person to keep the order and protect the water when Snyder was asleep. With such a sharp contrast, the author reveals **how strength and sense of responsibility could be brought out by one's position.**



# Structural Analysis

- The author starts with the confrontation: Snyder, the third officer of the wrecked Montala, pointing a gun at a pack of thirsty guys lusting for water in the canteen at his foot. Then a more detailed picture is drawn about the danger they were in, the responsibility Snyder had and the threat from Barrett, the bos'n's mate. Eventually, the suspenseful story provides the readers with an unexpected ending: the dangerous Barrett turned out to be the man to protect the last canteen of water.





# Structural Analysis

- This text is a narration in chronological order.
- **Part I** (Paragraphs 1-2): the introductory
- **Part II** (Paragraphs 3-23): detailed description about the desperate situation they were in and the responsibility Snyder shouldered.
- **Part III** (Paragraphs 24-28): the end of the story



- 较高要求词汇:
- Stern
- paralysis

- 更高要求词汇:
- Guts
- Crave
- Clog
- Growl
- Ration



武汉大学

Wuhan University



## Part II

Detailed study of the text



- **Part I (Para.1-2)**

- **Comprehension questions:**

- **1. Do you think Snyder could control the situation?**

- **Reference:** No. This was a situation of one versus nine. At present Snyder was in control because he had the gun, but considering the fact that he hadn't slept for seventy-two hours and was already half asleep, he could hardly hold on. If he should ever doze off, he would easily be on the losing side.



## Detailed study of the text

- 2. Why do you think Snyder point the gun at the other nine men?
- **Reference:** The author does not mention it in this part. By keeping the readers in suspense, the author arouses their curiosity and entices them to read on.



## Detailed study of the text

- **Stern**:n. the rear end of a ship or boat
  - E.g. Go and stand in /at the stern of the boat.
- a. hard, grim, or severe in manner or character
  - E.g. a stern headmaster/parent/police officer
- Sterner measures must be taken to combat drug trafficking.



## Detailed study of the text

- Guts
- (1) the internal organs of the abdomen
  - E.g. Oh, I have a terrible pain in the guts. It feels like food poisoning.
- (2) courage or determination
  - E.g. Michael was well-known at college, for he had the guts to challenge any professor.
  - You need a lot of guts to admit your mistake in the presence of your boss.



## Detailed study of the text

- Part II (Para. 3-23)
- Comprehension questions:
  - What was the cause of the confrontation?
- Reference: After drifting on the sea for twenty days, the ten survivors of a ship wreckage were dying from thirst. The only canteen left gave them the hope to keep on. Knowing that their hope would evaporate once the last drop of water was gone, Snyder, the man in command, was pointing his gun at these thirsty men to prevent them from taking their gulp. But the other men, not realizing his well-meant will, were glaring at the water, ready to spring up at every minute, take hold of it and gulp it down.





武汉大学

Wuhan University



## Detailed study of the text

- Why did Snyder insist that they wait till night for the last few drops of water?
- Reference: According to Snyder, the water drunk in the sun would be sweated out very fast, but if it were taken down at night, it would last longer.



武汉大学

Wuhan University



## Detailed study of the text

- **Pounce**: to spring or fly down suddenly in order to seize something
- E.g. The falcon pounced on/upon the rabbit.
- Living in a highly competitive society, they pounced on/upon every opportunity available.



武汉大学

Wuhan University



## Detailed study of the text

- **Ration**: to limit the amount of something that each person is allowed to have
- E.g. The government had to ration the food during the war.
- Coffee is rationed to two cups a day.



## Detailed study of the text

- Part III (Para. 23-28)
- Comprehension questions:
  - What happened when Snyder was asleep?
- Reference: Barrett took over not only the gun but also the responsibility to guard against the lust of those thirsty people. He rationed the water as Snyder had planned after night had fallen.



武汉大学

Wuhan University



## Detailed study of the text

- What made Barrett give up his chance of drinking the water?
- **Reference:** Barrett explained that he was given the responsibility to take others out of danger when Snyder handed him the gun and said, “Take over, bos’n.” Once given the authority, he would learn to view things from a different angle.



## Detailed study of the text

- **Compare**: gaze, stare, gape, glare, peer, ogle (They all mean to look long and intently.)
- **gaze** 凝视, 注视: prolonged looking that is often indicative of wonder, fascination, awe, or admiration.
- E.g. to gaze at the moon; to gaze into his eyes



## Detailed study of the text

- **Stare** 凝视, 盯着看: to gaze fixedly; the word can indicate curiosity, boldness, insolence, or stupidity;
- E.g. The old couple stared at them in disbelief.
- to stare into the distance



## Detailed study of the text

- **Gape** 目瞪口呆地凝视 suggests a prolonged open-mouthed look reflecting amazement, awe, or lack of intelligence
- E.g. Tourists are gaping at the sights.
- **Glare** 瞪眼, 怒目注视 is to fix another with a hard, piercing stare.
- E.g. She glared furiously at him when he contradicted her.





## Detailed study of the text

- **Peer** 注视, 凝视, 盯着看, 费力地看 is to look narrowly, searchingly, and seemingly with difficulty.
- E.g. He peered through his spectacles at the contract.
- **Ogle** 向(某人)抛媚眼, 色迷迷地看着 is to stare in an amorous, usually impertinent manner.
- E.g. She resented the way that the construction workers on their lunch hour ogled passing women.



武汉大学

Wuhan University



## Rhetorical Features of the Text

- See Page 242 in detail.
- More Examples:
  - 1. “A constant threat” (Para. 9), which serves as a sort of appositive.
  - 2. “The rest watched me as Barrett did, ready to spring the instant I relaxed.” (Para. 7) The underlined part of the sentence is employed to indicate the state in which they were.



武汉大学

Wuhan University



- 3. “The bos’n’s mate was a heavy man, bald, with a scarred and brutal face” (Para. 9). The underlined part is a prepositional phrase which further describes the man (the subject of the sentence).



# Important phrases from the text

- At close quarters 近距离的
- Stay awake 保持清醒
- Doze off 打盹
- Keep sb. Away from sth. 使某人远离
- Look forward to 期待
- Give in 屈服, 放弃
- Afford to do sth. 可以/能够干某事
- Prop up 支撑
- Pick up 拣起, 接载(人)
- Hold off 拖延; 不使.....接近
- Hold out (在困境中) 坚持
- On instinct 本能地



武汉大学

Wuhan University



# Ways to achieve coherence and conciseness

- Ways to achieve coherence:
  - 1. A clear logic.
  - 2. The use of transitions
  - 3. The use of pronouns.
  - 4. The use of subordination.
  - 5. Special sentence order or structure.



## ■ Ways to achieve conciseness

- 1. Avoid unnecessary repetition.
- 2. Changing the sentence structure, by using one word to replace a phrase or sentence, or by using one phrase to replace a sentence or clause.
- 3. Use appropriate pronouns to replace nouns.

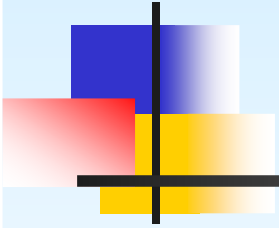


武汉大学

Wuhan University



# Text II War





## Important Words & Phrases

- Fancy
- Knock down
- Despise
- Screw...up
- Livelihood
- Reduce to
- Victorious
- Decay
- Descend
- Cease
- On the ...level
- refined
- To delight in.../to find joy in...





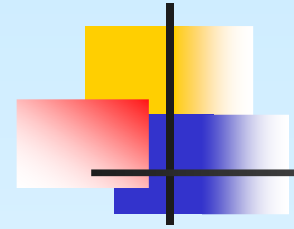
## Detailed Study

- **Fancy**: an idea with little relation to reality
- E.g. her strange fancies
- Children usually have a lively fancy.
- **Knock...down**: to hit someone with the vehicle you are driving so that they fall to the ground
- E.g. She was knocked down by a bus.



武汉大学

Wuhan University



- **Despise**: to consider sth. To be worthless or extremely bad
- E.g. People with evil characters are easily despised by others.
- We should despise bad behaviors to litter everywhere.



武汉大学

Wuhan University



- **Screw...up**: to make someone do sth. that he/she is afraid of doing
- Screw oneself up to doing sth.
- E.g. He screwed up his courage and asked her to go out with him.



武汉大学

Wuhan University



- **Livelihood**: the way in which you earn your money
- E.g. The oil spill has taken away fishermen's livelihood.
- Means of livelihood
- To earn/gain/make a livelihood



武汉大学

Wuhan University



- **Reduce to**: to cause or force someone or something to be in a state (usu. unfortunate or bad); Reduce sb. To discipline/silence
- Reduce a chaotic room to order
- The bomb reduced the city to ashes.
- His bad behavior reduces me to despair.



- **Victorious**: winning victory
- E.g. The victorious team
- **Decay**: to destroy sth. To be destroyed very slowly through chemical and other changes; to become weaker and less influential, while social standards probably also fall
- E.g. a decayed tooth
- Fall into decay
- It seems that all great civilizations decay in time.



武汉大学

Wuhan University



- **Descend**: to go down, to be passed down from older generations
- E.g. The sun descended behind the hills.
- The Queen descended the stairs.
- A desk that has descended in the family
- **Descend from**: be offspring of
- Descend from an ancient family



武汉大学

Wuhan University



- **Cease**: to stop to do sth.; to cause sth. To stop
- E.g. The rain has ceased.
- Cease fire
- Cease talking
- Cease to exist





- **level**: a position of height in relation to a flat surface; a position in a system of ranks; a smooth flat surface, especially a wide area of flat ground
- **On...level**
- **At...level**
- E.g. election on a local level
- At the grass-roots level
- At eye level
- Talks at ministerial level



武汉大学

Wuhan University



- **Refined**: made pure; having good education, manners, and often an interest in art, music, and literature
- E.g. refined oil
- Refined salt
- Refined gold
- She is so refined that she eats with a little fork!



- To delight in/to find joy in...: to get pleasure from doing sth.
- E.g. to delight in war
- To find joy in another's trouble



武汉大学

Wuhan University



# Writing Practice

- Write about someone you know. Choose an episode to show his/her qualities. Remember to make your sentences coherent and concise. With at least 150 words.