**The boat lurched right, then left again as it rode the roller-coaster waves deep into the dark, stormy night. Each time it lent dangerously to the side, Stan feared that it would just keep on going and throw them into the seething, merciless sea that was waiting impatiently to devour them.**

**Miraculously, the boat kept righting itself again, only to tip dangerously over to the other side. Stan didn’t know how much more of this he could endure. They had been riding this storm for the last 2 hours but it had felt like an eternity. Thankfully, the debilitating sickness had now passed, largely due to the fact that he had nothing left in his stomach to expel. He was bruised and battered from being flung around the cabin like a ragdoll. Luckily, the table and chairs were bolted down, giving him something solid to cling on to. Anything that hadn’t been secured to the floor, was now scattered unceremoniously all over the room. He was yet to venture into the galley kitchen, as the commotion he had heard from there suggested that the contents of the cupboards were now sliding up and down the floor; it would be futile to deal with that now.**

**Suddenly, the cabin door burst open and a large, weather-beaten man stumbled into the room. He was covered from head-to-toe in rainproof clothing and water rolled off him to form a large puddle on the cabin floor. “You ok Stanny boy? You holding out alright?” bellowed the man above the din of the storm.**

**“I think so Captain. When’s this storm going to quit?” Stan shouted back.**

**“Soon Stan, soon,” the Captain replied, giving Stan a reassuring smile whilst ruffling his hair with a large calloused hand. “We’ll be sailing past the island soon, which will offer us a little protection. The lads are getting tired, so when the sea starts to behave herself, they’d really appreciated some supper. Only when it’s safe to do so mind; I don’t want you hurting yourself. This will blow over soon, I promise. We need to get those nets out as the only fish we’re catching at the moment are the ones getting washed up onto the boat by the storm!” He winked at Stan then lurched forcefully towards the direction of the door. He stepped intrepidly back out onto the deck as the wind slammed the door behind him. Stan breathed deeply, smiled and headed for the galley.**

* **How do you think Stan is feeling? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.**
* **Do you think that Stan has been doing this job for long? Explain your answer using evidence from the**

**text.**

* **Why has the Captain come inside? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.**
* **Does the Captain manage to reassure Stan? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.**
* **What techniques have been used to describe the sea? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.**

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 **Explain Your Answer – Worksheet 1 – Expert**

**Explain Your Answer Using Evidence From The Text**

**Dear Mum,**

**I hope you and Rosie are keeping well. I’m not sure how long this letter will take to reach you; I’m posting it from one of the islands we’ve stopped off at to shelter from yet another storm. The weather has been particularly bad of late. We just seem to be battling one storm after another which is challenging our strength and resolve. I think I’m finally getting my sea legs though as I haven’t vomited for at least a week now! That’s definitely progress, don’t you think? Seriously though, the weather needs to settle soon as we must catch a decent haul of fish in order to make this trip worthwhile. There’s no coming home until we do.**

**Captain Abrahams is doing an amazing job of looking after me. He keeps me close by and he’s really patient when I make mistakes – which can be quite often! I’m lucky to have him, as mistakes can prove to be fatal out here. The lads are a great bunch too; they pull my leg a little but I know they don’t mean any harm by it. They do their best to keep me out of trouble and out of harms way. They understand how hard it is to be away from home for so long, although they seem so well adjusted now, unlike me. I miss you guys so much. I miss my warm soft bed and I most definitely miss dry land!**

**I’m not complaining though as I know I’ve made the right decision. Grandad was a fisherman; dad was a fisherman, so it must be in the blood, right? I wonder how long it took them to find their sea legs? I wish I could talk to them about it. I like to think that dad would’ve been proud of me. I somehow feel closer to him when I’m out at sea. Silly I know!**

**Anyway, I must go now as we’ve finished collecting provisions and we are about to set sail again. Always**

**know that I am doing my best and I will try to stay safe. Pray the weather improves for us.**

**Love you both so much, Stan x**

* **Do you think Stan is upset with the lads for pulling his leg? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.**
* **Why do you think Stan decided to be a fisherman? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.**
* **Do you think this is a dangerous job? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.**
* **What do you think has happened to Stan’s father? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.**
* **In what ways does he try and reassure his mother? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.**

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## Explain Your Answer – Worksheet 2 – Expert ANSWERS

**Explain Your Answer Using Evidence From The Text**

**Monday 27th March 2017**

**Location: North Atlantic Ocean, 55 nautical miles off the Faeroe Islands Sea temperature: 8**°**C**

**Wind Speeds: 63 knots**

**The weather has been truly shocking again today and my anxiety grows by the hour. We’ve been in open water for 8 days now and we’ve barely caught a thing. Wind speeds and sea conditions are making it impossible to drop the nets, yet it would be madness to go home until we’ve caught enough fish to cover our expenses. These conditions have been exhausting and dangerous but the lads work on without complaint. I know they’re as concerned as I am but they certainly don’t let me see it and I respect them for that. The new lad, Stan, has had a baptism of fire. It’s not been an easy start for him, what with the lack of fish and the appalling weather but he learns quickly and he works hard. I’m pleased he’s here though. He reminds me so much of his father; he was a good man and a gifted fisherman who always knew where to find the best fish. Sailing with him always seemed to bring us good fortune. I hope his son has inherited that talent, as we could do with a change of luck!**

**Tuesday 28th March 2017**

**Location: North Atlantic Ocean, 70 nautical miles off the Faeroe Islands Sea temperature: 12**°**C**

**Wind Speeds: 10 Knots**

**Well, I took a gamble today and I’m delighted to say that it’s paid off. In the small hours of this morning, the winds dropped suddenly and the sea calmed, so we made the decision to alter our course and follow the current west, further away from the protective shelter of the coast. It meant ignoring the advice of other boats that had recently caught fish; it also meant that we were further away from land if the weather changed for the worse again. However, the radar soon located an enormous shoal of fish, so we dropped the nets and hit the jackpot! We can head home now with a fully laden cargo hold and a very relieved but exhausted crew. The lads have shown me nothing but loyalty and support through some very challenging and dangerous times; I’m proud of every one of them.**

* **Why was the Captain feeling so anxious? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.**
* **In what ways do you think the lads have shown their loyalty and support? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.**
* **Why has it been such a hard start for Stan? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.**
* **Why was it a gamble to change course? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.**
* **Why is the Captain pleased that Stan is there? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.**