**ATOMIC ENERGY EDUCATION SOCIETY**

**DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM**

**SUBJECT: ENGLISH CORE (XI)**

**BOOK: HORNBILL**

**LESSON 2**

**Hand out (Module -1of 2)**

***We*’*re Not Afraid to Die……. If We Can All Be Together***

***By Gordon Cook and Alan East***

The story, ‘We’re Not afraid to Die-if We Can All Be Together’ is a story of extreme courage and skill exhibited by Gordon Cook, his family and crewmen in a war with water and waves for survival. In July 197 6, the narrator, his wife Mary, son Jonathan and daughter Suzanne set sail from Plymouth, England to duplicate the round-the world voyage made 200 years earlier by Captain James Cook. They took the voyage in their professionally built ship, the Wavewalker, accompanied by two experienced sailors – Larry Vigil, an American and Herb Seigler, a Swiss, to tackle one of the world’s roughest seas – the Southern Indian Ocean.

The initial period of their voyage was pleasant.

The weather turned bad, yet they had a wonderful Christmas 3500 kilometers east of Cape Town.

However, the following days were one of the worst faced by them. High waves roared and lashed the ship on both sides. The WAVEWALKER shook and the author was thrown overboard. The ship was about to capsize when another gigantic wave hit it making it right side up again. The author was thrown back onto the deck, his head and ribs had smashed against the walls and blood began to appear. The author didn't lose his cool. He tried to repair the leakage in the ship. He took control of the wheel. No immediate help was available as they were in one of the remotest corners of the world. Suzanne too suffered a head injury, black eyes and a deep cut on her arms. She was extremely brave not to speak of her injury. She simply didn't want to bother her parents when they were trying to save everybody on board.

**MAIN CHARACTERS**

**The narrator, Gordon Cook:** He is a 37 year old businessman. He wants to duplicate the round-the-world journey made by Captain James Cook 200 years earlier. He spends a long time improving his sea skills and finally begins his journey with his wife Mary, six year old son Jonathan and seven year old daughter Suzanne.

**Mary**: She is the narrator’s wife. She supports her husband’s dream and improves her sea skills. She joins her husband on their planned three-year voyage.

**Larry Vigi**L: An American who joins the narrator and Mary at Cape Town to help them tackle one of the world’s roughest seas.

**Herb Seigler**: A Swiss who also joins them at Cape Town to help them cross the southern Indian Ocean.

**Suzanne**: The narrator’s seven year old daughter who displays immense courage throughout their voyage.

**Jonathan**: He is the narrator’s six year old son who shows immense strength and optimism even in difficult times.

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