“Into the Dark”

Video: http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3757135

Before Reading:

1. Read the title, “Into the Dark,” and skim through the article, paying close attention to the various text features. What do you predict the article is about?

2. When you hear the word Titanic, what comes to mind?

During Reading:

Learning Target: I can determine the meanings of words and phrases as they are used in a text, both connotative and technical.

1. “Their large first-class cabins were as lavish as rooms in the finest European hotels.”

   What is the meaning of the word in bold?
   
   A. extravagant  
   B. poor  
   C. scarce  
   D. small

2. “There was an array of luxurious amenities, many of which had never been offered on a ship before.”

   What is the meaning of the word in bold?
   
   A. misbehavior  
   B. comforts  
   C. discourtesy  
   D. rudeness
3. “Jack, with his dapper wool suits and worldly confidence, mingled easily with the tycoons and power brokers he met in the first-class salon and dining rooms.”

What is the meaning of the word on bold?
A. dirty
B. ungroomed
C. dashing
D. wrinkled

4. “Amid the noise and panic, the screams and shouts and explosions, Jack and Milton tried to bolster each other’s courage as the ship continued to sink.”

What is the meaning of the word in bold?
A. uphold
B. prevent
C. undermine
D. hinder

5. “That moment came at about 2:15 am. The ship lurched forward, its bow plunging deeper into the black waters of the Atlantic.”

What is the meaning of the word in bold?
A. the back of the ship
B. the forward part of the hull of a ship
C. the top of a ship
D. the side of a ship
6. “The silence was broken by the first **plaintive** cries for help. People-hundreds of them-were scattered everywhere in the water.”

What is the meaning of the word in bold?
A. cheerful  
B. happy  
C. gloomy  
D. joyful

7. “And the truth was dire. The iceberg’s jagged fingers had clawed through the steel hull. Water was **gushing** into the ship’s lower levels.”

What is the meaning of the word in bold?
A. trickle  
B. spit  
C. drip  
D. flood

8. “The men in the crowd joked and puffed on cigars as they craned their necks and squinted into the dark night. They all wanted to see the **audacious** object that had dared interrupt the voyage of the great Titanic.”

What is the meaning of the word in bold?
A. unadventurous  
B. humble  
C. mild  
D. courageous
9. “Even the Thayers, a family of wealth and privilege, were **dazzled** by the ship’s grandeur.”

What is the meaning of the word in bold?
A. amaze  
B. bore  
C. disenchanted  
D. uninterested  

10. “But then Jack and his father saw Andrews standing with several of the ship’s officers. Andrews’s **grave** expression sent a stab of fear through Jack’s heart.”

What is the meaning of the word in bold?
A. cheerful  
B. funny  
C. serious  
D. silly  
E.  

**After Reading:**

11. At the end of the article, the author writes, “Jack sank into a deep depression. And this time he could not pull himself out of the swirling blackness.” What is the figurative meaning of “swirling blackness”?

12. What is the connection between the “swirling blackness” mentioned at the end of the article and the headline “Into the Dark Water”?
Learning Target: I can write an objective summary.

13. Write an objective summary of the article “Into the Dark.”

14. Write an objective summary of the section “Unsinkable.”
15. Write an objective summary of the section “Lost in the Crowd.”

16. Write an objective summary of the section “The Coward of the Titanic.”