

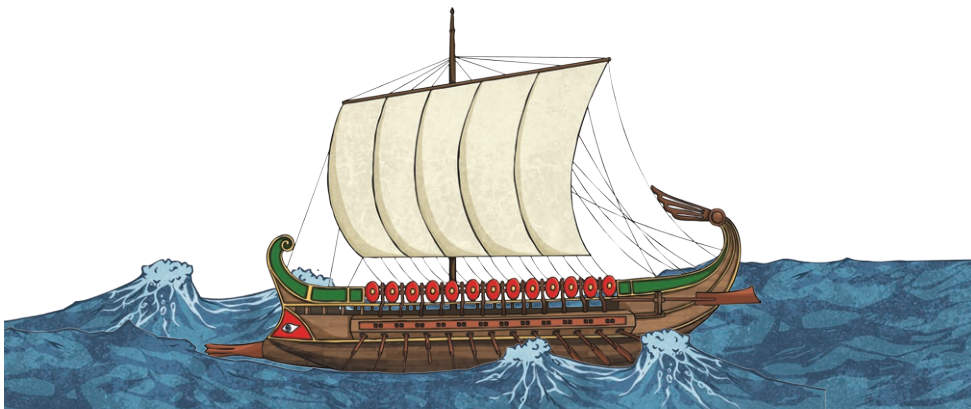
# Defeat or Retreat?

10 We had almost made it to Britain after a horrendous  
21 journey – my tunic was soaked and the iron studs of my  
32 caligae kept slipping around on the wet floor of the boat.

40 At 20,000 legionaries strong and our greatest general,  
50 Caesar, at the helm, we thought we could conquer and  
62 settle on these new shores; I would finally get the land I  
71 was promised for my family after all this time...

80 But as we approached the coast, the waves violently  
91 lapped over the sides of the boat. Atop the cliffs stood  
99 thousands of warriors, painted in blue woad, wielding  
108 long swords and firing arrows from finely crafted bows.

116 Defeating them, especially in this weather, would be  
124 impossible – we would surely perish. Caesar gave the  
130 command; we headed back to Gaul.



# Quick Questions



1. Through whose eyes is this story told?

\_\_\_\_\_



2. Find and copy two words or phrases which tell you that the journey was unpleasant.

● \_\_\_\_\_

● \_\_\_\_\_



3. What do you think caligae are? Explain your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



4. What do you think happened in the months after this event?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

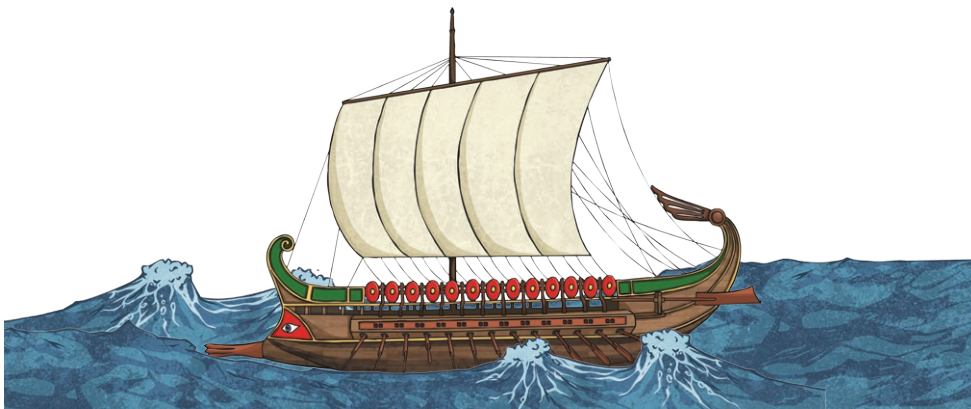
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130 command; we headed back to Gaul.



# Answers



1. Through whose eyes is this story told?  
**Accept: a Roman soldier's / a legionary's.**



2. Find and copy two words or phrases which tell you that the journey was unpleasant.  
**Accept: horrendous / tunic was soaked / wet floor of the boat / waves violently lapped / especially in this weather.**



3. What do you think caligae are? Explain your answer.  
**Accept a reasonable inference, such as shoes/ boots or a piece of equipment which fits into the context of the story, providing justification is made.**



4. What do you think happened in the months after this event?  
**Accept any reasonable answer which predicts a re-attempt, the invasion of another place or further training.**