Find the Evidence

Directions: Read each question below carefully. Some will ask you to select text evidence—or details in the story—to support a statement. Others will ask you to respond in your own words, supporting your ideas with text evidence.

1. Circle the letter of the piece of text evidence that best demonstrates why the Lusitania was a symbol of progress in science and technology:
   a. “In first class, wealthy passengers stayed in spacious cabins and dined in classy restaurants . . .”
   b. “The whole world was being transformed. It was now filled with shiny new automobiles, bright electric lights, and modern machines . . .”
   c. “It took only 18 minutes for the Lusitania to sink.”
   d. “The Lusitania could cross the ocean in mere days. Just 50 years earlier, such a journey could have taken weeks.”

2. The author builds suspense by dropping hints on pages 4-6 that something terrible was going to happen to the Lusitania. Give examples, using specific evidence from the text.

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3. The article discusses the reasons that passengers on the Lusitania did not believe the ship could be sunk. Circle the letter of the piece of text evidence that best explains why the passengers believed this.
   a. “The Lusitania had been carrying many tons of war supplies for Germany's enemies.”
   b. “They chatted with other passengers in the dining room, where they sat at enormous tables piled high with fried fish, pies, and puddings.”
   c. “If any passengers were nervous, however, crew members were quick to calm their jitters . . . It was too fast. Nothing could catch it.”
   d. “New discoveries in science and technology had made life safer, more exciting, and more connected.”

4. Explain in your own words how the Hook family survived the sinking of the Lusitania.

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5. Circle the letter of the piece of text evidence that best demonstrates how people in the United States felt about their country entering the war before the *Lusitania* was attacked.

a. “In the United States, most people didn’t want to get involved in Europe’s problems.”

b. “Anger against Germany grew. In 1917, the United States declared war on Germany.”

c. “By the time the *Lusitania* set sail in 1915, though, there was also fear in the air.”

d. “Those first years of the 1900s were exciting. To many, it seemed like humans could do anything.”

6. Many of the *Lusitania* passengers died after they escaped the sinking ship. Using evidence from the text, explain why they died and how they might have been saved.

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7. The captain of the *Lusitania* had some reasons to think that the ship might be attacked. Which piece of text evidence does NOT support this statement?

a. “A few days before the *Lusitania* left New York, the German embassy in Washington, D.C., had sent a warning to Americans: Any ships sailing near England would be attacked.”

b. “It was well-known that German U-boats prowled the waters near Ireland and Britain . . .”

c. “Captain William Turner had received notices about U-boat sightings from the British Navy throughout the voyage. But he seemed unworried.”

d. “Thousands of soldiers were being killed every month by poison gases and rapid-fire machine guns.”

8. Using evidence from the text, explain how the sinking of the *Lusitania* was a turning point for the United States in World War I. Use text evidence to support your answer.

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