Grade 10 Reading Assessment Readers' Responses
Sunk! Canada's Worst Maritime Disaster
Question # 3 EXEMPLARS

3. To this day, the exact cause of the tragedy has not been determined. Using information from this selection, how might you explain the cause(s) of the disaster?

Level 1

1

Limited: makes simple unsupported inferences and interpretations; may be illogical

I think the cause is that there was a lack of care and direction. If there had been better steering and attention it probably wouldn't have happened.

Level 2

2

Partial: makes and supports simple, reasonable inferences and interpretations with some specific evidence.

- ships were a lot closer then they originally thought
- thick fog made it impossible to see each other.

Level 3

3

Considerable: makes and supports logical inferences and interpretations with specific evidence.

I think that the main cause was miscommunication between the two ships. They didn't know what the other was doing and they ended up hitting each other. One thing I wonder is why they didn't radio each other because that could of saved the two ships. The thick fog also didn't help the two ships fate. The thick fog made each ship invisible until they both collided. All these problems led to the crews.

Level 4

4

Highly effective: makes and supports logical, insightful inferences and interpretations with specific, convincing evidence.

· The ships were unable to see one another in the impenetrable fog, making communication and signalling almost useless. The fog caused the tragic accident to occur because visibility and communication were disabled.

· Technology nowadays is very useful in the transportation of goods on ships, barges and tug boats. However, when the Empress of Ireland and the Storstad collided, communications were poor and not received and sent near as quick as they are today.