Yellow Station - Text Features Questions

1. Look at the images and read the headline and introduction on pages 4-5. What mood do the title, introduction, and images create?

2. How does the photo on page 6 of the people looking at the Lusitania contribute to your understanding of the article?

3. Read the caption at the bottom of page 7. Where in the article would the information about why few passengers took the German embassy's warning seriously best fit? Explain your answer.

4. Read the caption next to the photo of Captain William Turner on page 8. How does the caption help you understand the man who was in charge of the Lusitania?

5. What does the map on page 9 add to the article?

6. Why do you think the passengers and crew of the Lusitania were so confident that the ship would be safe?

7. Why is it important to study historical disasters like the Lusitania?
“The whole world was being transformed. It was suddenly filled with shiny new automobiles, bright electric lights, and newfangled machines like the telegraph, which sent messages around the globe in seconds.” (p. 7)

“But as the Lusitania sailed through the open sea, her engine humming pleasantly and the cold waters of the Atlantic splashing across her bow, the horrors of war must have seemed distant.” (p. 7)

“Even Captain William Turner—who had received notices about U-boat sightings from the British navy throughout the voyage—seemed unconcerned. The idea of the Lusitania being in any danger was ‘the best joke I’ve heard in many days,’ he had told reporters back in New York.” (p. 8)

“Crew and passengers tried desperately to hoist the 10-ton lifeboats into the water. But as the ship listed, the boats swung wildly, crushing some and trapping others.” (p. 9)

“Hundreds of survivors bobbed in the chilly 50-degree water. They were less than 12 miles from the coast of Ireland—maddeningly close enough to see the shoreline—but too far to swim.” (p. 10)

“Glass shattered. Fire broke out below deck. Passengers shrieked.” (p. 9)
In 1915, 12-year-old Elsie Hook and her family were traveling _____________.

At the time, most of Europe was _________________. The Germans warned that _________________. Many people did not take the threat seriously because _________________. But a German U-boat _________________.

________________________ Elsie and her family survived, but _________________. The sinking of the Lusitania may have contributed to America’s decision to _________________.

2. What historical event was occurring in 1915?

3. How did the captain and crew describe the ship?

4. How many passengers were on the ship? What happened to most of them?