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***Answer these questions:***

**1. Why did the narrator scarcely get time to think of the captain?**

The narrator didn't have time to think about the captain because of the death of his father.

**2. How would the captain spend his time after the stroke?**

After the stroke the captain spent his time walking up and down stairs, putting his nose outside to sniff the sea while breathing hard. His temper was more violent, and he drew his sword alarmingly, keeping it bare on the table.

**3. What did the blind beggar say he would do to the narrator if the latter didn't take him to the captain?**

The blind beggar said he would break the narrator's arm if he didn't take him to the captain.

**4. What was drawn and written on the card? How did the captain react upon reading the card?**

The card had a big black spot drawn on it and on the other side was a message that said, 'Ten o'clock'. The captain reacted by swaying, and then falling face foremost to the floor. He had been struck dead.

**5. It was the second death I had known, and the sorrow of the first was still fresh in my heart. Whose deaths is the narrator talking about? Why was the sorrow of the first death still fresh in the narrator's heart?**

The narrator is talking about the death of his father, which was the first death. The second death is the death of the captain. The sorrow of the first death is still fresh for the narrator because hardly any time has passed between the two deaths.

**Reference to the context:**

**1. He got downstairs next morning and had his meals as usual, though he ate little.**

- a. Who is the speaker?**
- b. Who is 'he' mentioned in the above sentence?**
- c. Why did 'he' eat little? What had happened to him?**

- a. The speaker is the narrator.
- b. The 'He' mentioned in the sentence is the captain.
- c. He ate little because he had had a stroke.

**2. I was standing at the door for a moment, full of sad thoughts about my father when I saw someone drawing slowly near along the road.**

- a. Why was the speaker full of sad thoughts about his father?**
- b. Where was the speaker when the above incident occurred?**
- c. Describe the person who was drawing slowly near along the road.**

- a. The speaker is full of sad thoughts about his father because the death of his father is very recent.
- b. The speaker was standing at the door of the Admiral Benbow, Black Hill Cove.
- c. The person approaching was blind since he tapped before him with stick and had covered his eyes and nose with a green shade. He was hunched and wore a huge, hooded and a torn sea -cloak. The effect of the hood was to make him look deformed.

**3. Lead me straight up to him, and when I'm in view, cry out,' 'Here's a friend for you, Bill.'**

- a. Who said these words and to whom?**
- b. Who was 'Bill'?**
- c. What would the speaker have done if he were not taken to bill?**

- a. These words were spoken by the beggar to the narrator.
- b. 'Bill' was the captain.
- c. The speaker would have broken the narrator's arm if he were not taken to the Bill.

***Think and answer:***

**1. Why do you think all colour went out of the captain's face the moment he saw the blind beggar?**

The colour went out of the captain's face when he saw the blind beggar because he knew who he was and why he had come. His fears were proved correct when the beggar handed him the card with the with the big black spot on it.

**2. Why do you think the narrator burst into a flood of tears when the captain died?**

The narrator burst into tears when the captain died because he had begun to feel pity for him because of his stroke and also because it was the second death he had to deal with very soon after the death of his father.

**3. Do you think the story would have been different had it been narrated by the captain? What would the captain have talked about more?**

The story would have been very different if the point of view of the story had been the captain's, but since the captain dies his narration would have ended abruptly and there would have been no narrator to carry on telling the tale. If the captain were the narrator, he may have talked about his life and his fears as well as his frustration with his body after his stroke. Perhaps he would have given the reader some background information about the songs he liked to sing.