

MASTER BEDTIME TALE: DEEP SIX THE OPALS OR MUTINY

STANDARD KNOWLEDGE - LITERATURE - FICTION/NON-FICTION - MIXED

Foundational

- Some stories are all true
- Some stories are all made up.
- Some stories are partly true and partly made up.

Elementary

People who tell stories sometimes exaggerate (hyperbole) to make their point more emotionally vivid.

BEDTIME STORY

On his last voyage, Annie's father (the Captain) had to deep-six a casket of Australian black opals in "the deepest part of the ocean when they were farthest from the land" Many of the crew believed that opals were evil and would curse the voyage causing some terrible disaster. Although he hid them from them, the crew had somehow learned he had them and made him throw them overboard on threat of mutiny. He had used all his retirement savings to buy them, and thus lost his hope of a comfortable retirement.

The phrase that the opals were jettisoned at "the deepest part of the ocean when they were farthest from the land" is not exactly true. It is an example of:

hyperbole?

metaphor?

Given that the mutineers would have been so scared of the opals being on board it is not likely that they waited until "the deepest part of the ocean when they were farthest from the land." (Assuming that they found out about them before or after they reached it.)

Why might the story have come down through the family in this way?

What might be close to true? Why?

see also

Mathematics: Measuring the Deepest Ocean

Physics: The Physics of the Deepest Ocean

Social Sciences: The Economics of the Deepest Ocean