



# 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea



*Retold from the Jules Verne  
original by Lisa Church*

*Illustrated by Dan Andreasen*

## What Do *You* Think? Questions for Discussion



**H**ave you ever been around a toddler who keeps asking the question “Why?” Does your teacher call on you in class with questions from your homework? Do your parents ask you questions about your day at the dinner table? We are always surrounded by questions that need a specific response. But is it possible to have a question with no right answer?

The following questions are about the book you just read. But this is not a quiz! They are designed to help you look at the people, places,

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

and events in the story from different angles. These questions do not have specific answers. Instead, they might make you think of the story in a completely new way.

Think carefully about each question and enjoy discovering more about this classic story.

1. When he first hears about the mysterious creature, Professor Aronnax says that it must be either a narwhal or a boat. Did you come up with any other possibilities? Were you surprised to discover that it was a submarine? Have you ever been involved in unraveling a mystery?

2. Why do you suppose Conseil jumps into the water after Professor Aronnax? Have you ever done something dangerous to help a friend? What was it?

3. Captain Nemo says that the sea makes him feel safe from all the harms in the world. Why do you think he feels this way? Where do you go to feel safe?

4. How do you think Captain Nemo has changed as a result of living underwater for so long? What kind of man do you suppose he was before creating the *Nautilus*? Have you ever known anyone like Captain Nemo?

5. On one of their many adventures, Captain Nemo takes Professor Aronnax to see Atlantis. Do you believe this city actually exists? What do you suppose we would see if we actually found it?

6. Arronax is torn between gaining his freedom and leaving the *Nautilus*. Why does he make the choice he does? What would you have done in his position?

7. Why do you think Captain Nemo is so eager to discover the South Pole? Have you ever discovered anything yourself?

8. Do you think Captain Nemo is a hero or a villain? Why?

9. When Aronnax is called in to look at one of the men's wounds, he hesitates to tell Captain

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Nemo that the man is dying. Have you ever had to deliver bad news? How did you do it?

10. Many of the tools that Verne writes about had not yet been invented when the book was written. If you were writing a similar book today, what would you invent?