



An important technological advancement used on the *Titanic* was the wireless. A wireless telegraph is a machine used for transmitting and receiving messages.

**F SUSPENSE**

Reread lines 116–130. How does the author use **foreshadowing** to create suspense?

**novelty** (nŏv'el-tē) *n.* something new, original, or unusual

**G CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER**

Reread lines 139–141. What day does Bride pick up the iceberg warning from the operator? Begin your timeline by recording this event. As you read on, record each major event that follows.

At noon on Wednesday, April 10, the *Titanic* cast off. The whistles on her huge funnels were the biggest ever made. As she began her journey to the sea, they were heard for miles around.

Moving majestically down the River Test,<sup>8</sup> and watched by a crowd that had turned out for the occasion, the *Titanic* slowly passed two ships tied up to a dock. All of a sudden, the mooring ropes holding the passenger liner *New York* snapped with a series of sharp cracks like fireworks going  
120 off. The enormous pull created by the *Titanic* moving past her had broken the *New York's* ropes and was now drawing her stern toward the *Titanic*. Jack Thayer watched in horror as the two ships came closer and closer. “It looked as though there surely would be a collision,” he later wrote. “Her stern could not have been more than a yard or two from our side. It almost hit us.” At the last moment, some quick action by Captain Smith and a tugboat captain nearby allowed the *Titanic* to slide past with only inches to spare.

It was not a good sign. Did it mean that the *Titanic* might be too big a ship to handle safely? Those who knew about the sea thought that such  
130 a close call at the beginning of a maiden voyage was a very bad omen. **F**

**J**ack Phillips, the first wireless operator on the *Titanic*, quickly jotted down the message coming in over his headphones. “It’s another iceberg warning,” he said wearily to his young assistant, Harold Bride. “You’d better take it up to the bridge.” Both men had been at work for hours in the *Titanic's* radio room, trying to get caught up in sending out a large number of personal messages. In 1912, passengers on ocean liners thought it was a real **novelty** to send postcard-style messages to friends at home from the middle of the Atlantic.

Bride picked up the iceberg message and stepped out onto the boat deck.  
140 It was a sunny but cold Sunday morning, the fourth day of the *Titanic's* maiden voyage. The ship was steaming at full speed across a calm sea. Harold Bride was quite pleased with himself at having landed a job on such a magnificent new ship. After all, he was only twenty-two years old and had just nine months’ experience at operating a “wireless set,” as a ship’s radio was then called. As he entered the bridge area, he could see one of the crewmen standing behind the ship’s wheel steering her course toward New York. **G**

Captain Smith was on duty in the bridge, so Bride handed the message to him. “It’s from the *Caronia*,<sup>9</sup> sir. She’s reporting icebergs and pack ice ahead.” The captain thanked him, read the message, and then posted  
150 it on the bulletin board for other officers on watch to read. On his way

8. **the River Test:** a river flowing into the English Channel at Southampton, the city in England from which the *Titanic* set sail.

9. **Caronia** (kə-rŏ'nē-ə).