

The Sinking of the SS Edmund Fitzgerald

Sample Five Paragraph Essay

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The SS Edmund Fitzgerald was a one of the best known cargo ships that sailed the Great Lakes during the second half of the 20th century. She broke many sailing records and was considered to be one of the fastest ships of her time. But even greater than the ship herself, was the great mystery surrounding the demise of this immense sailing vessel of the Gitche Gumee.

The SS Edmund Fitzgerald was christened on June 8, 1958 and made her maiden voyage on September 24, 1958. Nicknamed the 'Fitz', she was one of the largest cargo ships to sail the Great Lakes during its time. The ship was commanded by Captain Ernest M. McSorley, and manned by 29 people, and included cooks, cleaners, and people who loaded and cared for the cargo.

On the November 10, 1975 while headed from Duluth, Minnesota to Detroit, Michigan carrying a heavy load of iron ore, the SS Edmund Fitzgerald was caught in a violent storm. For hours the great ship battled 30 foot waves. Following closely behind her, was the SS Arthur M. Anderson, another slightly smaller cargo ship. The Captain of the Arthur Anderson, Jesse B. Cooper, maintained radio contact with Captain McSorley all during the storm.

At around 6:00 in the evening things took a turn for the worst. Captain McSorley radioed Captain Cooper and told him the Fitzgerald was taking on water and tilting to one side. They agreed that the Fitzgerald would slow down and allow the Anderson to

catch up with her. By the time the Arthur M. Anderson reached the location of the Edmund Fitzgerald, she was nowhere to be found. The ship went down with all 29 crew members aboard.

There are several theories as to why this great ship sunk, but now one knows for sure. Though the mystery of the SS Edmund Fitzgerald will never be completely solved, her crew will always be remembered for their dedication and bravery.