

Courage

Look beyond the information panels and literal examination of museum objects to examine the concepts of 'courage'. Use your imagination, empathy, and hypothetical thinking as you explore the galleries in the WA Maritime Museum.



The Parry Endeavour

Setting off from Fremantle on 25 May 1986, Jon Sanders circumnavigated the world three times aboard the Parry Endeavour. In that time, he never set foot on land, never had another person on board and survived solely on the three and a half tonnes of provisions taken on board when he departed Fremantle. In the course of his journey, his boat capsized, his food spoiled, some of his navigation and communication equipment failed, and illness set in. According to Sanders, his reasons for undertaking the epic, dangerous voyage were that he enjoyed the sea, and it was an original thing to do. The voyage earned Sanders 15 world records for endurance and other unique achievements - however, he could have easily lost his life.

Would you say setting off on this journey was an act of courage? Could you see yourself ever going on a journey like this? Why/why not?

General discussion points

As you explore the Museum, consider the people associated with the objects on display, their experiences and responses to risky or dangerous situations.

- **Who used the boats/other objects on display?** (eg. Migrant? Fisherman? Soldier? Adventurer?)
- **Why were they using it? What did these people do/ want to do?**
- **What risks might have they faced?** Think of as many examples as you can!
- Put yourself in these people's shoes...**What might you have been worried about? Frightened of?** (eg. Failure? Physical hurt to self or others? Disappointing others?)
- **In what sorts of ways or situations might these people have had to demonstrate courage?**

In the galleries...

Use ideas from discussion and exploration of the galleries to draft an acrostic poem, where the first letter of each line spells out the word 'courage'

Back in the classroom...

Complete and illustrate the acrostic poems and put up as a class display.

Share experiences: can you describe a time when you had to show courage?

Hold a debate: is courage something you can learn or something you are born with?

The big question

Maritime voyages can be fraught with risk and bring to mind stories of great bravery. Find the boats below. Imagine the dangerous situations that the people who used each of the boats might have found themselves in. How would you respond in similar circumstances?

Is facing up to a dangerous situation COURAGE, or just a normal response to circumstances?



Sama Biasa –the first Indonesian fishing boat captured and confiscated for illegal fishing in Australian waters (1980).



Replica of a typical whaling boat used in the 19th century around the coast of Australia and other parts of the world.



The Trixen – a pearling lugger used around Broome until the 1940s.



The Sleeping Beauty– smallest of mini submersibles based at Garden Island, used for covert operations (eg. planting mines) (1940s).