**Jigsaw Activity:** Characters and Themes in Stephen Crane’s “The Open Boat”

**Instructions:**

1. In your Home Groups, determine who will cover which area of expertise. If your group has fewer than five people, one person can cover Areas 1 and 2. If your group has more than 5, two people can work in Area 4.
2. Take notes and make observations individually in your area of expertise. Create a detailed portrait of your character(s). Who are they? What are they like? What motivates them? Are they simple (flat) or complex (round)? Do they change throughout the story or remain the same (dynamic vs. static)? Pay attention to descriptions as well as dialogue and action. Always support claims with evidence from the text.
3. Gather into Expert Groups to compare notes and share findings with other people working in your area of expertise.
4. Report back to your home group. As a group, develop some summary observations that relate characters to each other and to the theme of the story. How do the characters relate to each other? What do their interactions and relationships say about the prevailing theme of the story? What *is* the prevailing theme? Record summary observations on the back.

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| Area 1: The Oiler (Billie) |
| Area 2: The Cook |
| Area 3: The Captain |
| Area 4: The Correspondent |
| Area 5: Nature (specifically the sea) |

***Summary:***