Worksheet 4. Comparing Introductions: Ishmael and Ahab

Compare the first-person introduction of Ishmael in “Loomings,” chapter 1, with Ahab’s introduction in “Sunset,” chapter 37. Remember to support your answers with textual evidence from both chapters.

1. How does each character introduce himself? Identify how the introductions are similar and how they are different.

2. How does Ishmael’s approach to life differ from Ahab’s?

3. How do Ishmael and Ahab’s purposes on this voyage differ? What are Ishmael’s reasons for going to sea? What is Ahab’s rationale for making the voyage?