

## Survival of Men in Stephen Crane's "The Open Boat"

**K.Ravi<sup>a</sup>, K. Divya<sup>b</sup>, P. Kasirajan<sup>c</sup>**

<sup>a</sup>Asst Professor of English, Annai Fathima College of arts and science,  
Thiumangalam, Madurai, India

<sup>b</sup><sup>c</sup>I-M.A.,English literature, Annai Fathima College of arts and science,  
Thiumangalam, Madurai, India

**Corresponding Author:** K.Ravi

### Abstract

This paper focuses on survive and struggle of men against the nature. Stephen crane was a one of the most notable American poet, novelist and short story writer. His works are based on the naturalism and impute of the beginning of modern naturalism in America. His work "The Open Boat" describes about the men who are all struggles hard in the ocean. The story is about four men the captain, oiler, cook and the correspondent. At last they were saved by the crew in the shore but the oiler alone died in the end. Nature is the big area of the universe and it has a both power to benefit us and destroy us.

**KEYWORDS:** struggle, survive, cooperation, naturalism.

### Introduction:

Naturalism was started in the nineteenth century as a movement. It was an extreme form of realism in which the nature that determines the human character. Naturalism based on the act of law of nature and individual sufferings by the environment. Stephen crane was a most eminent American poet, novelist and short story writer. His work "The open boat" is an exemplary work of naturalism. The powerless men face different thing of nature in their life. The nature is more powerful than the man. Disregard of nature make the life of human being as a plight. Naturalism describes about the men who are become victims in the hand of nature. Nature doesn't create any harm to human it is human who made the nature to harm human. Stephen crane's work "The Open boat" describes about the four men and their struggles and survive in ocean. it also describe about their plights to get out of the ocean. Nature become the more powerful and it create darkness in the life of the character and it affect their life by winning over the character. This story "the open boat" is also describe about the suffering of character as above mentioned.

### Critical analysis:

Stephen crane was the eminent writer in America and his works are imputes of the beginning of the modern naturalism in America. His work "the open boat describes about the four men they are the correspondent, oiler, cook and the captain. This story describes about their sufferings in the ocean. The huge wave in the ocean comes and shutter everything. Stephen wrote this short story after his surviving experience in the coast of Florida. "The open boat" is more over considered his self-experience. It was a dawn and near from the coast of Florida between the surface and the sea. The four men were travelling in the ship. It was sank overnight. The captain in the ship was injured. The four men flee in the boat due to the sink of their boat. They were all row

for the safety of the life. The correspondent and oiler starts to row the boat and the cook huddles. The captain instruct the direction to the others because he was badly injured in the shipwreck. They were trying to reach mosquito light inlet. The cook said that in which there is a life station for their safety. Their boat starts to move up and down in waves. It seems that the wave that takes everything of the men their courage and hope. Here nature shows its power and darken the hope of the sailor. At the day passes the men are become silent but the captain encourage them. When they row, the sea bird fly above the boat and float as a group beneath them. Of that group one bird came closer to them. The men thought that the bird is an ill-omen. At the time captain and the cook see lighthouse and it had growing larger slowly. At last in each wave's top, the men see the land in the boat. The wind was died so the cook and the correspondent did not now work hard to hold the oar because the wave pushing the boat. Slowly they saw the land from the sea and the lighthouse but the low thunder wave beaten the boat so they wouldn't reach the light house and they started to rowing again until the reappearance of the lighthouse. The captain hesitates that there is no sign of life in the station. There is a taste of success seen in their eyes. They approach the land and realize that there is no help was coming more than that there is no life station within twenty miles in other direction so the four become unhappy. Their hope was destroyed in front of their eyes. There come another sign of help for them in the form of indication of men then they saw the people of crowd. Due to the rolling down of the boat they thought that the help was on the way. Correspondent struggle to reach the boat and captain and he arrived in water that reach in his chest but he was unable to stand. At this stage again he was pushed by the wave. A man came for a help from the shore. He dragged the cook to the shore and then came to help the captain but the captain ask him to move away and save the correspondent. The oiler came to the shore lay his forehead touched on the sand in the shore. The correspondent didn't know what happened because he was fell down on the sand with his whole body striking. The group of people gave a blankets and clothes to the crew members and a coffee. When the correspondent came to conscious he learn from the captain that the oiler was died. Now the ocean was gentle, warm and quite silent. The night had come and the white wave rolled to the shore with the sound from the sea to the men on the shore it indicates the sign of warning for the men from the sea. At last the men come to understand the ocean of nature. This paper concludes that nature has more power which human can judge it or understand it. Nature can give a chance to human to understand about it through experience.

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