

# Salvaging The Sewol



## STARTING THE CONVERSATION

- What do you know about the Sewol sinking?
- Where were you when the Sewol sank?
- How has the yellow ribbon come to represent the Sewol tragedy?
- Why do you think that the Sewol tragedy has become a national issue?
- Have you ever visited memorials or spoken to families of victims?

## READING THE TEXT

Read the following article and circle any unknown words or phrases.

On April 16, 2014, the Sewol passenger ferry carrying 476 people **capsized** and sank in what is now referred to as the deadliest maritime disaster in South Korea. In total, 294 passengers were killed, including 245 students from Danwon High School. Still missing are 9 passengers—including 4 students, 2 teachers, and 3 others including a father and his six-year-old. In spite of the international outrage, there has not yet been a comprehensive investigation on what caused the Sewol to sink, why the passengers were not **promptly** rescued, and why the sunken ship was not immediately salvaged.

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries announced earlier this week that the Sewol ferry was to be brought up from the seabed. These final stages of the Sewol raising operation have come almost three years after the ship sank. The salvage operation was **notorious** for its delays. The government first announced recovery plans in April 2015 and a Chinese salvaging firm was chosen to carry out the task. The ministry had originally aimed to complete the operation by the autumn of 2016 — but the timeline was continuously pushed back, and many doubted whether Sewol would ever **see the light of day**.

The salvaging process has finally started, but families of victims are still **as tense as ever**. It has been a constant battle, even being able to see this operation begin, but there are fears that they many not be able to find the remains of their children and many aspects of the salvaging plans are concerning. “The government could have chosen a faster salvaging method that didn’t involve damaging the ship,” said Kim Young-oh, who lost his high school student daughter Yu-min in the accident. Kim claimed that the government deliberately chose a salvaging firm that allowed crucial evidence about the shipwreck to be destroyed. “They’ve already cut off crucial parts like the anchor and the propeller and taken them away. But it’s not necessary to **dismantle** it to conduct a search for the remaining bodies. There must be a proper investigation.” The concerns that family members like Kim express about the salvaging operation **is second only to** the grief that they endure every day that the ship — and their loved ones — remain underwater.

## DEFINE VOCABULARY

Explain the meaning of each word in your own words and write an example sentence.

**capsized**

**promptly**

**see the light of day**

**notorious**

**as [adjective] as ever**

**dismantle**

**is second only to**

## DISCUSSION

Watch the Al Jazeera video and discuss your thoughts: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3OKlpXxam-Y>

- Why do you think that the salvage process was constantly delayed?
- What do you think caused the incident, and why has it not been determined?
- On the day that the salvage process started, one of the top searches on Naver was “the cost of salvaging the Sewol.” The cost is estimated to be 102 billion won. What are your thoughts?
- Do you think that it is important to spread the news about the Sewol sinking internationally? Why or why not?
- What do you think should be done to prevent a tragedy like this in the future?

## HOMEWORK

Write a ½ page response after reading one of the following articles:

- <http://judyhan.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Sewol-Ferry-Fact-Sheet-2015.pdf>
- <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/06/sewol-disaster-victims-bedrooms-left-160617095336595.html>
- <https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2015/04/the-cherished-empty-bedrooms-of-the-sewol-ferry-victims/390594/>

