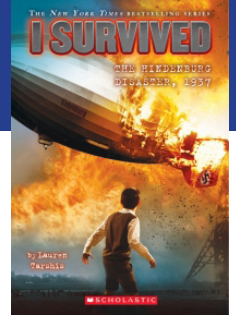


I SURVIVED

BOOK CLUB

Name: _____

I Survived The Hindenburg Disaster, 1937



READ-ALoud

Assign roles to your family and friends for this read-aloud from *I Survived the Hindenburg Disaster, 1937*, in which Hugo takes a great risk to bring his sister—who is sick with malaria—the one thing she wants more than anything in the world....

CHARACTERS:

	Mom
Narrator	Gertie
Doctor	Panya
Dad	Mr. Singer
Hugo	Colonel Kohl

Narrator: Hugo and Dad wait in the hallway while Mom is in their cabin with Gertie and the doctor. Terrified, Hugo tries not to think of what might happen to his sister. Finally, the door opens, and the doctor comes out.

Doctor: We got her fever down and she's stable now. There will be an ambulance waiting at the airfield when we land to take her straight to the hospital.

Dad: Thank you, Doctor.

Hugo: We land in three hours, right, Dad?

Dad: That's right—

Doctor: Actually, I'm afraid not. Because of strong headwinds and storms along the east coast, we're running about eight hours behind schedule.

Narrator: Hugo's knees go weak at the thought of his sister having to wait even longer for help. The doctor sees his fear.

Doctor: Your sister is tough. Why don't you go in and see her? I'll be back to check on her in an hour.

Narrator: Hugo and Dad enter the cabin to find Gertie sleeping. Mom looks exhausted.

Mom: Sit with your sister for a bit, will you, Hugo? Your father and I need to step out for a few minutes.

Narrator: Hugo sits down next to Gertie. He hates to see her so sick. But even worse, he hates that he can't help her. As he reaches out to touch her feverish forehead, her eyes flutter open.

Gertie: Hugo...

Hugo: Is there anything I can do for you, Gertie? Anything you want?

Gertie: Panya. I want Panya.

Narrator: As soon as the words leave her mouth, Hugo is already trying to figure out how to get Panya from the off-limits cargo area into his sister's arms. When their parents return, Hugo stands.

Hugo: I'll be back. I'm just going to get some air.

Narrator: He steps into the hallway and dashes down to the lower deck. He manages to slip from the passenger area to the cargo area. Soon, he hears a familiar howling.

Panya: Garoo, garoo, garoo!

Hugo: Sssshhh! I'm here, Panya—I'm coming!

Narrator: When Hugo pops open the door of the cage, Panya leaps in his arms.

READ-ALoud (CONTINUED)

Hugo: Gertie needs you so stay quiet, okay?
We can't get caught.

Narrator: As they start to go, they hear footsteps. Hugo ducks behind a large crate, hiding Panya in his shirt. Suddenly, Mr. Singer appears. Hugo watches as Mr. Singer pulls out of a crate a large envelope...with a swastika on the front. Hugo suddenly remembers one of the passengers saying that the Nazis were on board looking for a spy.

Hugo (whispering): Could Mr. Singer be the spy the Nazis are looking for?

Narrator: Now there are more voices, including that of the Nazi officer Colonel Kohl. Mr. Singer spins around and his eyes land on Hugo. Hugo looks from Mr. Singer to Kohl and back, and then he nods. As Mr. Singer looks for a place to hide, Hugo pulls Panya from his shirt and stands up just as Kohl and his men appear.

Kohl: Halt! It's forbidden for you to be down here!



Hugo: My sister is sick, sir. She needs to see our dog, so I came to get him. I know it's against the rules. I'm sorry.

Panya: Grrrrrrrrr....

Kohl: Silence your dog or I'll have it thrown from the zeppelin!

Narrator: Hugo tries to quiet Panya, but Panya can tell that Colonel Kohl is dangerous.

Kohl: Have you seen a man back here? He's a dangerous traitor and it's urgent that we find him.

Hugo: There's no one here but me, sir.

Narrator: Kohl comes closer to Hugo and leans in.

Panya: GRRRRRR....

Kohl: I can always tell if a person is lying. A liar's sweat gives off a stench, like rotting flesh.

Narrator: Though his knees are shaking, Hugo stands straighter, looking the man right in the eye.

Hugo: I'm telling the truth, sir. I've just come to get my dog for my sick sister.

Kohl: Don't let me see you back here again. If I do, I will lock you up. Now go.

Narrator: Hugo doesn't have to be told twice. He quickly leaves the cargo hold and dashes back to the cabin. When he walks in with Panya and goes straight to Gertie, his parents stare at him in shock.

Hugo: Gertie. Someone's here to see you.

Narrator: Gertie opens her eyes to see her beloved dog on the bed.

Name: _____

I Survived The Hindenburg Disaster, 1937

READ-ALoud (CONTINUED)

Gertie: Panya!

Panya: Garoo...

Narrator: Panya protectively settles in next to Gertie.

Mom: How did you do this, Hugo?

Dad: Did Mr. Singer help you?

Hugo: He did, in a way.

Narrator: Hugo says nothing else. It's too dangerous for his parents to know the truth about Mr. Singer. So he simply climbs into bed next to Gertie and Panya and wraps his arms around them both. ■