

I SURVIVED

BOOK CLUB

Name: _____

I Survived The Great Alaska Earthquake, 1964



CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS AND LETTER-WRITING ASSIGNMENT

CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS:

1. Where do Jackson and his family live? What is challenging about this place?

2. What is a "winter bear"? Why is there a winter bear in Jackson's family's cabin?

3. What does Jackson carry in his emergency backpack, and why?

4. What does Jackson think his teacher will be like? How is Miss Lawrence different from what he expects?

5. Why does Jackson tell his friends the story about the wolves and the grizzly instead of the stories about the beautiful rainbow or the singing birds?

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CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS AND CREATIVE-WRITING ASSIGNMENT *(CONTINUED)*

6. Why doesn't Jackson go with his friends to Leonor's house after school? What does he need after his first day in school?

7. What does Jackson hear his friends saying about him? What does this make him want to do?

8. What is the first thing that Jackson notices when the earthquake starts? Then what starts to happen to him?

9. What happens when Jackson falls into the fissure? What does he notice? How does he get out of it, and what happens when he lands?

10. How do Jackson's friends surprise him after the earthquake? How do they help him, and why?



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CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS AND LETTER-WRITING ASSIGNMENT *(CONTINUED)*

JOURNAL-ENTRY ASSIGNMENT: Imagine you are Jackson. It's the night after the earthquake, and you've been reunited with your parents and Uncle Solly, thanks to Miss Lawrence. Write a journal entry explaining what happened to you during the earthquake. How did you feel? When were you most scared? When did you feel brave, and why? What was it like when your friends arrived, and when Miss Lawrence found all of you? What did you learn from the whole experience?

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ANSWERS

CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS:

1. Jackson and his family live in the bush in Alaska. It's challenging because it's the wild part of Alaska, far from roads and towns.
2. A winter bear is a bear that comes out of hibernation too early. The bear is very hungry, so it broke into Jackson's family's cabin to find food.
3. Jackson carries a compass and flashlight in case he gets lost; emergency matches for building fires; moose jerky and dried blueberries for high-energy food; a whistle to scare away animals; rope to lower himself down from cliffs; and a shovel for shoveling snow.
4. Jackson thinks his teacher will be a "grumpy-grandma type." Miss Lawrence turns out to be young and friendly.
5. Jackson knows that his friends want to hear something with blood, guts, and snarls.
6. Jackson doesn't go with them because he feels lost—he doesn't know who The Beatles are, or what a Hula-Hoop or Silly Putty is. He needs some peace and quiet.

7. Jackson hears his friends deciding not to invite him to meet the supply ship with them because they think he "hates" them. He wants to chase after them and tell them he doesn't hate them.
8. First Jackson hears a *GRRRRRRRR* sound that gets louder and louder. Then his whole body starts to shake.
9. When Jackson falls into the fissure, he falls about six feet and lands on soft, wet sand. He notices a terrible smell. As he's trying to climb out, a blast of freezing water explodes underneath him and shoots him out of the pit. When he lands, he breaks his ankle.
10. Jackson is surprised that his friends have come looking for him after seeing him fall into the fissure. When he tells them he can't walk, Chris offers to carry him on his back. They have to get away from the water because a tsunami might be coming.

JOURNAL-ENTRY ASSIGNMENT:

Answers will vary.