

I SURVIVED

BOOK CLUB

Name: _____

I Survived The California Wildfires, 2018



CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS AND THANK-YOU EMAIL ASSIGNMENT

CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS:

1. Why doesn't Josh's mom pick him up after the basketball? What does he discover when he finally arrives home?

2. When Josh and his mom arrive at Holly's and Aunt Nicole's, who—or what—is there to greet Josh? What does it look like?

3. When Josh first starts hiking with Holly, how does he feel about it? How do his feelings about hiking change, and why?

4. When King Kong gets out of his enclosure, what does Aunt Nicole find near the bird feeder? How does this help them understand why he wanted to escape?

5. What does Josh learn from Eleanor and Lucas about why wildfires are bigger and hotter now than ever before?



CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS AND THANK-YOU EMAIL ASSIGNMENT *(CONTINUED)*

6. What happens that sends Josh running into the woods by himself? Why is he so upset?

7. When the fire catches up to Josh and Holly in the woods, what gives Holly the idea to head for the river?

8. How do Josh and Holly get over the burning bushes and into the river? How does Josh feel when he lands in the water?

9. How does Holly save Josh? How does Josh save Holly?

10. What happens when Eleanor and Lucas arrive on the Huey? How do they get Josh and Holly to safety?

ANSWERS

CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS:

1. Josh's mom doesn't pick him up because the police are at their house. When Josh arrives home, he discovers his father in handcuffs, being led to a police car.
2. Josh is greeted by a Savannah monitor lizard named Bubbles. She is at least six feet long, with a bullet-shaped head and a long tail.
3. At first, Josh is a little scared of hiking, because of being in the middle of a massive forest. But he gets more comfortable with it because Holly knows her way around, and sometimes they see "cool stuff."
4. When King Kong gets out of his enclosure, Aunt Nicole finds his old skin near the bird feeder. They realize that he wanted to get out so he could shed his skin, which is difficult for pythons to do in captivity.
5. Josh learns that climate change is making summer longer and hotter, and the air drier, which is making wildfires bigger and hotter. He also learns that people are building houses in places that used to be wild, and that many places haven't had enough small fires that burn away dead trees and dried-up brush.
6. Josh googles his dad's name and learns that his dad was sentenced to eight months in prison. Then he overhears his mother saying that she and his father were planning to tell him everything when she and Josh got back from California. When Josh confronts his mother and she tells him the truth, he's so upset that he runs into the woods.
7. Deer are running past Josh and Holly, and Holly realizes that they are heading for the river. Since the river is a natural fire line, Josh and Holly follow them.
8. Josh and Holly use an old zip line to fly over the burning bushes, and they let go when they're over the river. They splash down into the cold water, and it soothes Josh's burned skin.
9. Holly saves Josh by getting them through the flames to the river, over the burning bushes. Josh saves Holly by getting the water out of her lungs and carrying her out of the river.
10. When Eleanor and Lucas arrive on the Huey, they get Josh and Holly out of the water and into the helicopter. Then they fly up and over the fire to safety.

LETTER-WRITING ASSIGNMENT:

Answers will vary.