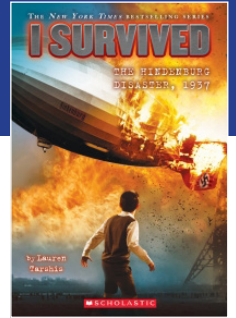


Name: _____

I Survived The Hindenburg Disaster, 1937



CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS AND THANK-YOU NOTE ASSIGNMENT

CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS:

1. Where are Hugo, Gertie, and their parents (and Panya!) flying from? Where are they flying to? And what are they traveling on?

2. Where does the word *zeppelin* come from? What are two other words for *zeppelin*?

3. Who is Martha Singer? Why is Hugo fascinated by her?

4. What does Hugo learn from Captain Pruss on the tour of the zeppelin about where the *Hindenburg* will be traveling?

5. Why does the *Hindenburg* fly with flammable hydrogen instead of the much safer gas helium? What makes the helium safer?



Name: _____

I Survived The
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CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS AND LETTER ASSIGNMENT *(CONTINUED)*

6. Why does Hugo sneak into the cargo hold, even though he knows he's not supposed to go down there?

7. How does Hugo figure out that Mr. Singer is the spy?

8. What difficulty does the *Hindenburg* face when it is trying to land at the Lakehurst airfield?

9. What happens when Hugo is on the ground, on fire? What saves his life?

10. What are the theories about what caused the explosion on the *Hindenburg*?

Name: _____

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

THANK-YOU NOTE ASSIGNMENT: Imagine that you are Mr. Singer. You are writing a letter from *your* hospital bed to Hugo in *his* hospital bed, thanking him for his incredible bravery when he distracted Colonel Kohl so you could get away. As Mr. Singer, be sure to describe to Hugo what it felt like to see a young person stand up and serve his country—and the world—in the fight against the Nazis.

Name: _____

I Survived The Hindenburg Disaster, 1937

ANSWERS

CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS:

1. Hugo, Gertie, their parents, and Panya are flying from Frankfurt, Germany, to New Jersey, U.S.A. They're flying on an airship called the *Hindenburg*.
2. *Zeppelin* comes from the name of the man who figured out how to make the big airships fly, Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin. Two other words for *zeppelin* are *dirigible* and *airship*.
3. Martha "Marty" Singer is the daughter of a man who works for the Zeppelin Company, which owns the *Hindenburg*. She has flown on a zeppelin eight times and has seen amazing things from the windows of the airship, like dolphins leaping up out of the water.
4. Hugo learns that the zeppelin will be flying near Canada's coast, then over the beaches of New England, and then over New York City before landing at the *Hindenburg's* airfield in Lakehurst, New Jersey.
5. The *Hindenburg* has to use hydrogen because the world's supply of helium comes from the United States, and the U.S. government isn't selling helium to German companies while Hitler is in power. Helium is a much safer gas because it's not flammable at all.
6. Hugo sneaks into the cargo hold to get the family dog, Panya, for his sick sister, Gertie, because he knows Panya will help her feel better.
7. When Hugo is in the cargo hold trying to sneak Panya out of his cage, he sees Mr. Singer taking an envelope out of a crate with a swastika on it.
8. A line of thunderstorms rolls in, making landing too dangerous, and the zeppelin must head out to sea again.
9. When fire is raining down on Hugo from the burning zeppelin, the airship's water tanks burst as they hit the ground and the water puts out the fire.
10. Some say it was a bomb. Others say it was a gas leak started by a spark from lightning during the thunderstorm.

THANK-YOU NOTE ASSIGNMENT:

Answers will vary but should include the description of what it felt like to watch Hugo bravely take action against Nazi officer Colonel Kohl.