

Name: _____

I Survived The *Hindenburg Disaster, 1937*



LITERARY-ELEMENT ACTIVITY AND CONTEXT REVIEW

PLOT: In a book, the plot is the series of events that tells the story. These events are often connected to each other—one event leads to another event, which leads to another event... Answer the questions below to explore how the plot's events are connected in *I Survived the Hindenburg Disaster, 1937*.

1. Gertie gets sick with malaria in Kenya. The family goes to Germany to see a famous doctor, but he has no cure. This leads the Ballard family to...

2. Dogs aren't allowed in the passenger area on the *Hindenburg*, so a crew member takes Panya to a cage in the cargo hold. Later this leads Hugo to...

3. Hugo sees Mr. Singer in the cargo hold just before Colonel Kohl arrives, and he realizes that Mr. Singer is the spy. This leads Hugo to...

4. As the *Hindenburg* approaches the Lakehurst airfield, the weather on the east coast is bad. This leads the *Hindenburg* to...

5. Colonel Kohl catches Mr. Singer right before the explosion happens. The explosion leads to a metal beam falling, which...

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LITERARY-ELEMENT ACTIVITIES *(CONTINUED)*

CONTEXT REVIEW: The *I Survived* books are works of historical fiction. Author Lauren Tarshis supplies important information at the back of each book about the events in the story and the history around these events. Use this information—called “context”—to answer the questions below.

1. What is the difference between a zeppelin and a blimp?

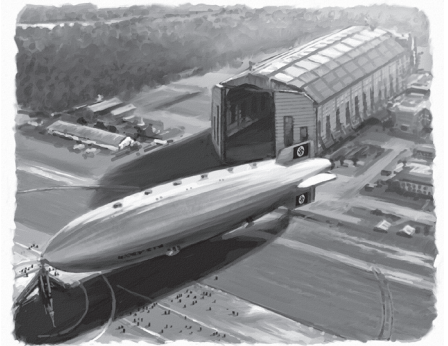
2. What is the difference between a zeppelin and today’s airplanes?

3. What did many people believe about zeppelins in 1937?

4. Before the *Hindenburg* tragedy, how popular were zeppelins? Where did they fly?

5. How did so many people end up seeing the *Hindenburg* disaster?

6. Why did the United States refuse to sell helium to Germany for the *Hindenburg*?



ANSWERS

LITERARY-ELEMENT ACTIVITIES:

PLOT:

1. ...get on the *Hindenburg* to take Gertie to see a doctor in New York City who has a new kind of medicine.
2. ...sneak into the cargo hold to get Panya for Gertie.
3. ...stand up with Panya so that Colonel Kohl will see him and not notice Mr. Singer.
4. ...fly back out to sea because it's too dangerous to land.
5. ...lands on Colonel Kohl and allows Mr. Singer to get away.

CONTEXT REVIEW:

1. A zeppelin has a rigid metal frame. A blimp is more like a balloon.
2. A zeppelin flew below the clouds, which allowed passengers to see amazing sights like dolphins, whales, icebergs and skyscrapers. Today's airplanes fly at nearly 40,000 feet for most of a flight, which makes it difficult to see anything up-close.
3. Many people believed that zeppelins were going to become a common mode of transportation, like trains or ships.
4. Between 1928 and 1937, the *Graf Zeppelin* and the *Hindenburg* made more than two thousand journeys. They flew across Europe, to America, and between Germany and South America.
5. The disaster was captured on film. Within days, millions of people around the world had watched the airship burn and crash.
6. People in the U.S. were convinced that Hitler was plotting a war and were worried that Germany would use the *Hindenburg* for military purposes.