

# I SURVIVED

## BOOK CLUB

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### I Survived The Galveston Hurricane, 1900



# CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS AND LETTER-WRITING ASSIGNMENT

### CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS:

1. Why is Charlie worried about going back to school? Who is he concerned about seeing, and why?

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2. What is Lulu afraid of, and why? How does Charlie help her?

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3. What is an overflow, and why are Charlie and Sarah excited about it?

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4. Why does Mr. Cline—the chief of Galveston’s weather office—say that it would be impossible for a hurricane to hit Galveston?

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5. What is Charlie’s plan to get back at Gordon?

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

6. How does Charlie figure out that Galveston is experiencing a hurricane?

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7. How does Charlie get separated from his family at the Potts's house?

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8. What helps Charlie when he is stuck under the water with wire wrapped around his legs?

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9. How do Charlie and Gordon survive after they end up in the water? What keeps them safe overnight?

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10. What do Charlie and his family do after the storm? Where do they go?

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## ANSWERS

#### **CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS:**

1. Charlie is worried about going back to school because of a bully. The bully is named Gordon, and Gordon is always making someone's life miserable.
2. Lulu is afraid of thunder, also known as the "cloud monster," because the booms are so loud. Charlie helps her by distracting her with a magic trick.
3. An overflow is a special kind of flood on Galveston Island. Sometimes during storms, water from the Gulf fills the roads near the beach, making a gigantic swimming pool that Charlie and Sarah like to float around in.
4. Mr. Cline says that most big Atlantic Ocean hurricanes get pulled north before reaching Galveston. He also says that the part of the Gulf near Galveston is too shallow for powerful waves that could damage the island to form.
5. Charlie plans to use his magic-trick skills to pretend to put a cockroach in Gordon's skull, and then say that if Gordon promises to leave him alone, he'll remove the cockroach before it lays eggs in Gordon's brain.
6. First, Charlie tastes the water that is in front of his house and realizes it's sea water from the Gulf, not rainwater. Then he thinks back on Mr. Early's description of the hurricane in 1837, and realizes the same things are happening.
7. Charlie goes upstairs to get his magic kit so he can distract Lulu from the storm. While he's up there, water floods the lower floor of the house. People rush upstairs and he gets pushed down the hall. He ends up in a room, up against the wall, and when the wall gets pulled off the house by the wind, he falls into the water.
8. Charlie remembers a phrase he read in Meraki's book, spoken by Houdini: "One must not panic or struggle when trying to get free from a rope..." He stays still, and the wires loosen enough for him to wriggle free.
9. When Charlie and Gordon are in the water, they use whatever they can as a raft. Then they see a tree that is still standing. They work hard to paddle over to the tree and then grab on to it, leaving their raft. They stay in the tree until the morning, when the storm is over.
10. Charlie, Mama, and Lulu take a barge across the bay to stay with Mama's cousins for three months while Papa stays behind to help other men clean up the wreckage.

#### **LETTER-WRITING ASSIGNMENT:**

Answers will vary.