

# I SURVIVED

## BOOK CLUB

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

### I Survived The Galveston Hurricane, 1900



# CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS AND ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

### CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS:

1. Why is magic important to Charlie? What effect does doing magic have on him?

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2. What kind of brother is Charlie? How do you know?

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3. Why does Sarah talk about gods and goddesses when she's trying to help Charlie understand why Lulu is afraid of storms?

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4. Why does Gordon decide to pick on Charlie? What happens the night before?

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5. Charlie learns from Meraki's book that he is not powerless in the situation with Gordon. What does he decide to do? Is this a good use of "power"? Why or why not?

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### CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS AND ESSAY ASSIGNMENT *(CONTINUED)*

6. Charlie notices a lot of evidence that the storm isn't just a regular storm, and he's worried—he thinks it's a hurricane. Why is he having a hard time trusting what he thinks?

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7. Why do Charlie and his family go to the Potts's house as the storm worsens?

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8. How does Charlie's view of Gordon change when he hears Mr. Potts and Gordon talking upstairs at the Potts's house? How does this affect what happens between Gordon and Charlie later?

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9. Whose voice does Charlie hear in his head when he starts to slip from the tree? Why is this important?

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10. At the beginning of the book, Charlie says that the talent show is something Sarah would do, not something he would do. At the end, Charlie is performing in the show. Why? What changed?

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**ESSAY ASSIGNMENT:** Answer the organizer questions on the next page to help you brainstorm a two-paragraph essay with a concluding statement about how Charlie changes from the beginning of the book to the end. Then use the information from your organizer to write your short essay.

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

### I Survived The Galveston Hurricane, 1900

# CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS AND ESSAY ASSIGNMENT *(CONTINUED)*

## TWO-PARAGRAPH ESSAY ORGANIZER FOR *I SURVIVED THE GALVESTON HURRICANE, 1900*

**First, answer the questions below to brainstorm ideas for your first paragraph, which will be your introduction:**

What is Charlie like at the beginning? How does he see himself on pp. 8–9?

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**Choose two pieces of evidence for your second paragraph to explain how Charlie changes, and why:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Next, answer the question below to help you write a concluding statement for the end of your second paragraph, explaining what helped Charlie change.**

What does Charlie go through in the book? How does this give him confidence?

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**Now, write your essay on the back of this page or on a computer using your answers above.**

## ANSWERS

### CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS:

1. Magic is important to Charlie because it makes him feel like he's more than what people see. It makes him feel like there's something special about him.
2. Charlie is a kind brother who looks out for and takes care of his sister. I know this because he uses his magic tricks to help her through her fear of the cloud monster.
3. Sarah is making the point that if you don't understand what something is or how it works, it can be scary. She says that a long time ago, people thought gods and goddesses controlled the weather, meaning that they didn't understand the science behind weather, in the same way that Lulu doesn't.
4. One night, Charlie and his family see Gordon and his parents outside an expensive restaurant, and Gordon's father is yelling at Gordon. The next day, Gordon starts bullying Charlie. Gordon was probably embarrassed that Charlie had seen him getting in trouble, and so he decided to pick on Charlie.
5. Charlie decides to trick Gordon the way that Meraki tricked his kidnappers. He comes up with the plan to scare Gordon into promising to leave him alone. It's not a good use of his power because it doesn't fix the problem with Gordon, it just gets back at Gordon.
6. Charlie can see that something different is happening but he's having a hard time trusting himself because he knows that Mr. Cline, a weather expert, has said that a hurricane could never hit Galveston. Also, his father isn't taking his concerns seriously.
7. The Potts live in a mansion that is built on thick, stone pillars that lift the house six feet above the ground. Charlie's parents think that the family will be safe from the storm and the water in this sturdy house.
8. When Charlie hears Mr. Potts being cruel to Gordon, he feels sorry for Gordon. This plays a role in his decision to help Gordon later, when they are both in the water.
9. When Charlie starts to slip from the tree, he hears a voice saying, "You are strong." But it's not Meraki's voice, or the voice of anyone else he knows. It's his own voice. This is important because it shows that Charlie is relying on himself, not on anyone else.
10. Charlie has more confidence in himself now, after surviving the hurricane. He learned that he is strong and can do things that he might have found hard before, like finding the courage to perform magic in front of an audience.

**ESSAY ASSIGNMENT:** Answers will vary but evidence may include figuring out before the adults that a hurricane was coming; helping Gordon survive the water; being able to stay safely in the tree all night; making his way back to his family when the hurricane was over.