

I SURVIVED

BOOK CLUB

Name: _____

I Survived The Joplin Tornado, 2011



CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS AND CREATIVE-WRITING ASSIGNMENT

CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS:

1. Who is Jeremy? Why hasn't Dex heard from him in a while?

2. How does Dex meet Dr. Norman Gage, and why does he already know him?

3. What did Jeremy let Dex bring to school for a day, and why is it special?

4. How is Dr. Gage's SUV set up for storm chasing?



5. What is the Enhanced Fujita Scale and how does it work?

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CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS AND CREATIVE-WRITING ASSIGNMENT *(CONTINUED)*

6. When Dr. Gage and Dex are shooting the sound pods into the storm, what causes Dr. Gage to say he was wrong about the storm and that it's dangerous after all?

7. How does Dex know that the tornado has come for them?

8. When Dex opens his eyes after the tornado has moved on, what does the world look like to him and why? What does he see?

9. How does Dex use the first aid kit to help Dr. Gage?

10. How does Dex feel about the hailstone that he and his dad rescue from the wreckage of the SUV? What does he want to do with it? What does he do, and why?

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ANSWERS

CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS:

1. Jeremy is Dex's 20-year-old brother and a member of the U.S. Navy SEALs. Dex hasn't heard from him in a while because when Jeremy is on a mission, he can be out of touch for weeks.
2. Dex ignores a stop sign while riding his bike and almost gets hit by a car. The person driving the car is Dr. Gage. Dex knows Dr. Gage from his TV show *Tornado Mysteries*, and also his father and Dr. Gage know each other.
3. Jeremy let Dex bring his SEAL trident pin to school, which shows a golden eagle clutching an anchor, a gun, and a three-pronged spear. It's special because out of 118 guys in Jeremy's training class, only 23 passed and got their pins.
4. Outside, it has extra-strong metal plates bolted to its sides to protect from flying rocks and debris; oversized tires for driving at high speeds across flooded fields and rocky ditches; and a cluster of antennas connected to three different computer screens. They are mounted to the dashboard, and give instant access to the latest weather data. There's also a mini freezer for keeping hailstones frozen.
5. It is a scale used to measure the strength of tornadoes. An EF-1 is the weakest, and an EF-5 is the strongest.
6. Lightning bolts are shooting out of the storm cloud like flaming spears.

7. His ears start to pop, and there's a noise like thousands of Black Hawk helicopters exploding from the sky, their engines roaring, their blades whirring.
8. He doesn't recognize anything and feels as if he's crash-landed on a distant planet. The ground is covered with glass and pulverized wood and metal instead of grass; there are hills of tangled debris; and the trees look like skeletons, stripped of their leaves, branches, and bark.
9. He puts on the disposable gloves and uses the scissors to cut away the muddy fabric stuck to Dr. Gage's bleeding leg. Then he rips open a package of gauze and presses it down on the wound as hard as he can to try to stop the bleeding.
10. Dex wants to smash the hailstone into a million pieces because it is part of the storm that destroyed his city. But he puts it back in the little freezer because he knows there might be a secret inside the hailstone that could help Dr. Gage unravel the mysteries of tornadoes.

CREATIVE WRITING ASSIGNMENT:

Answers will vary but could include Dex's memories of that day; his feelings of being inspired by Dr. Gage; his fascination with—and terror of—the tornado; and/or what it was like for him to see Joplin destroyed. End on a happy note—Why is Dex optimistic about better ways to detect tornadoes?