

Name: _____

I Survived The Joplin Tornado, 2011



THEME ACTIVITY AND CONTEXT REVIEW

THEME: One of the themes of this book is learning to rely on yourself, also known as self-reliance. Answer the questions below to explore how the author develops this theme.

1. Why does Dex look up to Jeremy?

2. When Dr. Gage is injured, how does Dex feel about himself in comparison to Jeremy?

3. How does Jeremy inspire Dex when Dr. Gage needs Dex's help?

4. Why does Jeremy give Dex his SEAL pin?



Name: _____

I Survived The Joplin Tornado, 2011

THEME ACTIVITY

AND CONTEXT REVIEW (*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, the history around these events, and her reason for writing the book. Use this information—called “context”—to answer the questions below.

1. How wide was the Joplin tornado? What kind of tornado was it?

2. The Joplin tornado touched down on May 22, but when, where, and how did it actually start?

3. What is the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning?

4. Where do tornadoes strike?

5. How can you stay safe in a tornado?

6. Why does author Lauren Tarshis write about disasters?

ANSWERS

LITERARY-ELEMENT ACTIVITY:

THEME:

1. Dex looks up to Jeremy because Jeremy is a Navy SEAL and one of the toughest warriors on the planet.
2. When Dr. Gage is injured, Dex thinks that if he were a SEAL like Jeremy, he would be able to carry Dr. Gage to the hospital. But he is just an 11-year-old kid, not a battle-toughened SEAL, and he doesn't think he can do anything to help.
3. Dex hears Jeremy's voice in his head, encouraging him to complete his mission, and he finds the strength to stand up, shake off his tears, and go get the first aid kit.
4. Jeremy gives Dex his SEAL pin because he feels like Dex earned it by being brave and doing hard and important things by himself after the tornado.

CONTEXT REVIEW:

1. The Joplin tornado was nearly one mile wide at its widest point, and it was a rain-wrapped "multiple vortex" tornado, meaning that it had more than one funnel.
2. It started on May 14 when a mass of cold, dry air from the Gulf of Alaska traveled down the west coast and collided with a stream of warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico in eastern Colorado.
3. A tornado watch means that conditions are right for tornadoes but there is no specific threat. A tornado warning means that a tornado is almost certainly coming, and people should take shelter.
4. Tornadoes have touched down in every part of the world, except Antarctica, as far as scientists know, but most tornadoes happen in the United States.
5. Be aware of the weather; if the weather looks stormy, check for weather alerts; take tornado watches and warnings seriously; go inside if there is danger of a tornado; stay away from windows and don't open them; go to a basement if possible or take shelter in an interior room on the building's lowest level; if you can, put on a helmet of any kind to protect your head.
6. Because disaster stories are actually stories about *resilience*—the ability to recover after experiencing something difficult or painful.