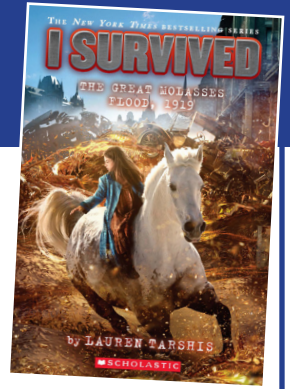


# I SURVIVED

## BOOK CLUB

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

### I Survived The Great Molasses Flood, 1919



# LITERARY-ELEMENTS

## 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 Great Molasses Flood, 1919*.

1. Papa gets sick with the flu and dies. This leads to Carmen having to...

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2. At the Grassos, Carmen thinks she overhears a conversation about her going back to Italy. This upsets Carmen and leads her to...

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3. Tony goes looking for Carmen and finds her at the tank with Rosie. This leads to Tony and Carmen...

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4. In the flood, Carmen remembers floating on the shutter in the tidal wave. This leads her to...

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5. A giant piece of the tank crashes into the wagon. This leads Carmen to...

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# LITERARY-ELEMENTS 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 at the back of the book—called “context”—to answer the questions below.

1. What is an immigrant? Why is being an immigrant difficult?

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2. Why was the cleanup effort after the flood so difficult?

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3. What did the engineer who studied the wreckage of the tank discover?

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4. What did the employees of the molasses company know about the noises coming from the tank?

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5. Where does molasses come from? What was it used for? How did this change over time?

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## ANSWERS

### LITERARY-ELEMENTS ACTIVITIES:

#### PLOT:

1. ...move in with the Grassos.
2. ...leave the house and go to Rosie.
3. ...being close to the tank when it explodes and getting caught up in the flood.
4. ...grab onto the wagon and pull herself halfway out of the molasses.
5. ...fall off the wagon and sink into the molasses, and get separated from Tony.

#### CONTEXT REVIEW:

1. An immigrant is a person who leaves country to move to a new country. Being an immigrant is difficult because you have to leave behind your entire life—your home, friends, and school—and come to a new place where you probably have to learn a new language and culture.
2. The cleanup effort was difficult because the molasses was everywhere—in basements, on sidewalks, in the streets—and it had hardened. Workers had to use salt to loosen the molasses before they could scrub it off.
3. The engineer who studied the wreckage of the tank discovered that the steel the company used was not strong enough for a tank that size. He also determined that there weren't enough rivets to hold the pieces of steel together.
4. The employees of the molasses company knew that the noises meant that the molasses was fermenting, and that the gases that were building up inside the tank could lead to an explosion.
5. Molasses comes from the sugarcane plant. It is what's left over after sugar is made by boiling sugarcane juice. Back when sugar was expensive, Americans used molasses to sweeten things. As sugar became less expensive, sugar replaced molasses, and molasses was mostly used to make industrial alcohol for explosives.