



CONTEXT REVIEW AND PROBLEM-AND-SOLUTION EXERCISE

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—called “context”—to answer the questions below.

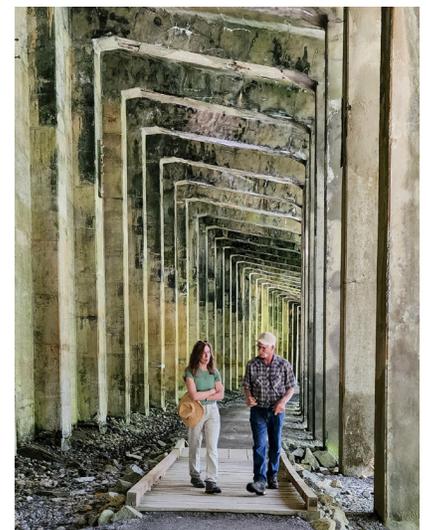
1. What problem did the author face while writing the book, and how did she solve it?

2. Why is the Wellington disaster not considered a natural disaster?

3. Did the snowsheds built by the Great Northern Railroad prevent further disasters?

4. How were railroads both a good and a bad thing for the United States?

5. What causes an avalanche?



Lauren visits the snowsheds
in Wellington, WA

Name: _____

I Survived The Wellington
Avalanche, 1910

CONTEXT REVIEW AND PROBLEM-AND-SOLUTION EXERCISE *(CONTINUED)*

PROBLEM-AND-SOLUTION: Fill in the blanks below with either the problem or the solution, as needed.

PROBLEM AND SOLUTION CHART

PROBLEM	SOLUTION
1. Hammer gets arrested in the train station, leaving Janie alone.	
2. Janie is trapped on the train because of the snow on the tracks, and Malvo is going to find out that Hammer got arrested and Janie never went back to Aunt Barbara's.	
3. Violet has gone missing.	
4.	Janie takes the diamonds out of her coat and hides them in a sock in her overnight bag.
5.	Mr. Riggins decides he's going to take his chances and walk five miles through the blizzard to Scenic.
6.	Janie moves one finger, then another, then another, making room so she can claw through the snow and reach her arm out so people can find her.

ANSWERS

CONTEXT REVIEW:

1. While writing the book, the author needed a source for Janie's inspiration and strength. She remembered a book that she'd read to her kids, called *The Little Engine That Could*, but discovered it was published in the 1930s, after the avalanche. Through more research, however, she learned that the story was told to kids in the early 1900s, and she realized that her librarian character, Miss Eva, could tell the story to Janie and Dash.
2. The Wellington disaster is not considered a natural disaster because it was humans who decided to build train lines through the Cascade Mountains, one of the most avalanche-prone places in the United States.
3. They didn't. Three avalanches hit in the winter of 1916–17, killing 15 more people.
4. Railroads were wonderful in terms of allowing people to travel and move to new places, and helping sleepy towns develop into bustling cities. But they came at a cost. Native Americans were robbed of their land and their lives, and the immigrants from China, Ireland, and Italy who built the railroads worked under terrible—sometimes deadly—conditions and were not paid fairly for their work.
5. An avalanche is caused by layers of snow high in the mountains that build up over a period of weeks or months. These layers can have different textures, and as different layers pile on, weaker layers may start to break. The slightest weight can then send snow crashing down the mountain, sometimes harming people, structures, or anything else in its way.

PROBLEM-AND-REVIEW EXERCISE:

1. **Solution:** Janie decides to get on the train, to escape from Malvo and her sad life.
2. **Solution:** When Janie learns that the telegraph service is down, she realizes that Malvo has no way of finding out what's going on and she now has more time.
3. **Solution:** Janie remembers that Violet said she was going to build a snowman and goes outside to find her.
4. **Problem:** One of the hidden diamonds pokes its way through Janie's coat.
5. **Problem:** Mr. Riggins becomes convinced that sitting on the tracks in Wellington is dangerous.
6. **Problem:** Janie is buried alive in the avalanche.