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**I Survived The Great Molasses Flood, 1919 Novel Activities**

**Part 1: Visualization – Draw a picture of what you see in your mind as you read the following selected text.**

Page 2 – And then suddenly, thousands of steel bolts that held the tank together let go. Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! They blasted through the air like bullets fired from a machine gun. Seconds later, the metal tank blew apart completely. Jagged chunks of metal whirled through the air like knife-winged birds.

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Page 3 – The molasses wrapped itself around Carmen’s legs, like millions of powerful snakes dripping with slime. It rose up to her waist, to her chest. She had to do something!

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Page 23 – A big-bellied man with a greasy black beard and small, mean eyes stood over them. He was holding a huge club- and he looked like he was ready to crack some skulls.

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Page 30 - He looked like a shivering ghost, deathly pale, lips tinged blue. His teeth chattered, even though the bed was piled with blankets.

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Page 61 -The wave of molasses was at least twenty feet tall, and swirling and churning in every direction. With each passing second, it devoured more of the waterfront. It smashed into buildings, tearing them to pieces. It picked up sheds and wagons, horses and men. The roar got louder as the wave filled with wreckage.

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**Part 2: Cause and Effect – Write down either the cause or the effect for each of the examples in the chart below.**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Page** | **Cause** | **Effect** |
| 3 | There was a fast moving wave of thick syrup. |  |
| 14 |  | Kids visited the molasses tank. |
| 34 | Papa was really sick with the flu. |  |
| 59-60 |  | Rosie reared up. |
| 78 |  | Carmen has to stay in the hospital at least 1 more week |

**Part 3: Figurative Language – Write the type of figurative language for each example in the chart below. Choices: onomatopoeia, simile, personification**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Page** | **Example** | **Type** |
| 1 | A gigantic wave had crashed in to the streets-a swirling, raging monster moving faster than a train. |  |
| 3 | The molasses wrapped itself around Carmen’s legs, like millions of powerful snakes dripping with slime. |  |
| 20 | GRRR guh guh gug gug GRRR guh, guh, guh, guh… |  |
| 38 | There were seven of them living here, crammed together like tomatoes in a jar. |  |
| 47 | Clop, Clop. |  |
| 58 | The metal groaned and squeaked. |  |
| 68 | The molasses was like quicksand. |  |

**Part 4: Inferences**

1. On page 5, what example does the author use to show that the story takes place a long time ago?

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1. On page 6, what example shows us that Tony is upset?

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1. On page 14, what is an example used by the author that shows the story takes place a long time ago?

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**Part 5: STEM Challenge**

The molasses company did not build the molasses tank well or test it correctly. The steel the company used was not strong enough for such a large tank. For your STEM challenge you are asked to construct something that can withhold 1 pound of pressure placed on top of it. You will be given different materials to use such as straws, toothpicks, gumdrops, cardboard, etc. In order for your project to be considered a success, it needs to stay up when the 1 pound weight is laid on top of it.