

I SURVIVED

BOOK CLUB

Name: _____

I Survived The Galveston Hurricane, 1900



CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS AND LETTER-WRITING ASSIGNMENT

CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS:

1. Why is Charlie worried about going back to school? Who is he concerned about seeing, and why?

2. What is Lulu afraid of, and why? How does Charlie help her?

3. What is an overflow, and why are Charlie and Sarah excited about it?

4. Why does Mr. Cline—the chief of Galveston’s weather office—say that it would be impossible for a hurricane to hit Galveston?

5. What is Charlie’s plan to get back at Gordon?



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

6. How does Charlie figure out that Galveston is experiencing a hurricane?

7. How does Charlie get separated from his family at the Potts's house?

8. What helps Charlie when he is stuck under the water with wire wrapped around his legs?

9. How do Charlie and Gordon survive after they end up in the water? What keeps them safe overnight?

10. What do Charlie and his family do after the storm? Where do they go?

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

LETTER-WRITING ASSIGNMENT: Choose one of the letter-writing options below. Share your letter with your classmates or *I Survived* book-club friends.

- Imagine you are Charlie, writing a letter to your father while you are in Houston after the hurricane and he is in Galveston helping to clean up. You want to tell your father what it was like for you when you were in the water, separated from your family. Were you scared? What were you thinking about? What were you hoping for? Also, do you miss your father? Do you wish you could all be together as a family again?
- Imagine you are Gordon, and you want to apologize to Charlie for the way you treated him before the hurricane. You also want to thank him for helping you when you were both in the water. What do you say? Why were you cruel to Charlie? How do you feel about what you did? What did it mean to you that Charlie was willing to help you during the hurricane? How do you feel about Charlie now?

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ANSWERS

CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS:

1. Charlie is worried about going back to school because of a bully. The bully is named Gordon, and Gordon is always making someone's life miserable.
2. Lulu is afraid of thunder, also known as the "cloud monster," because the booms are so loud. Charlie helps her by distracting her with a magic trick.
3. An overflow is a special kind of flood on Galveston Island. Sometimes during storms, water from the Gulf fills the roads near the beach, making a gigantic swimming pool that Charlie and Sarah like to float around in.
4. Mr. Cline says that most big Atlantic Ocean hurricanes get pulled north before reaching Galveston. He also says that the part of the Gulf near Galveston is too shallow for powerful waves that could damage the island to form.
5. Charlie plans to use his magic-trick skills to pretend to put a cockroach in Gordon's skull, and then say that if Gordon promises to leave him alone, he'll remove the cockroach before it lays eggs in Gordon's brain.
6. First, Charlie tastes the water that is in front of his house and realizes it's sea water from the Gulf, not rainwater. Then he thinks back on Mr. Early's description of the hurricane in 1837, and realizes the same things are happening.
7. Charlie goes upstairs to get his magic kit so he can distract Lulu from the storm. While he's up there, water floods the lower floor of the house. People rush upstairs and he gets pushed down the hall. He ends up in a room, up against the wall, and when the wall gets pulled off the house by the wind, he falls into the water.
8. Charlie remembers a phrase he read in Meraki's book, spoken by Houdini: "One must not panic or struggle when trying to get free from a rope..." He stays still, and the wires loosen enough for him to wriggle free.
9. When Charlie and Gordon are in the water, they use whatever they can as a raft. Then they see a tree that is still standing. They work hard to paddle over to the tree and then grab on to it, leaving their raft. They stay in the tree until the morning, when the storm is over.
10. Charlie, Mama, and Lulu take a barge across the bay to stay with Mama's cousins for three months while Papa stays behind to help other men clean up the wreckage.

LETTER-WRITING ASSIGNMENT:

Answers will vary.