



Name _____

Date _____

STORM TROOPER

Jason and his father were driving to the grocery store to pick up some milk. It had been a weird day. The sky was dark but there were few clouds. As they drove up the street, there started to be a rumbling sound heard across the ground.

Jason's father immediately realized that a tornado was coming. He stopped the car and instructed Jason to get out immediately. Jason and his dad got out of the car and worked their way to the closest building. By this time the wind was raging, and it was hard to see or hear. Debris was falling all over the place. Jason couldn't see his dad anymore. He also realized that he wasn't getting to the building fast enough. He was afraid he would be picked up by the wind and thrown into the air.

As he worked his way towards the building, he noticed a field to his right. He could see the irrigation ditch that dipped down. In a panic he scrambled to the ditch and lay flat on the ground. More debris and objects flew overhead. Jason stayed crouched down. His heart was pounding, and he was nervous. He had never been in a tornado before.

After awhile, the winds died down and the loud roaring sound was gone. Jason slowly lifted his head and peered around. The landscape as he once knew it was destroyed. Jason could barely recognize the buildings in front of him because of all the damage.

He stood up and with shaky legs walked to the building. Once there, he pried the door open and went inside. It was a public building owned by the city. It was vacant, but Jason could hear noises further inside. He walked into the large room and caught a glimpse of his dad. He raced across the room and gave him a big hug.

"Jason! How are you? I've been worried sick about you!" said his father. "I couldn't find you anywhere!"

Jason breathed a sigh of relief and sat down. Did he ever have a story to tell!

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which paragraph explains the problem in the story?
 - first paragraph
 - second paragraph
 - third paragraph
 - fourth paragraph
- What inferences can you make about Jason?
 - Jason is upset with his father.
 - Jason tries to follow very high expectations.
 - Jason doesn't take life too seriously and can adjust easily.
 - Jason is quick-thinking and self-sufficient.
- What is the meaning of the word *debris* as used in the story?
 - wreckage
 - parts of the tornado
 - barrier
 - metal pieces



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SKI PATROL

"Grab the rope, Ian! We'll pull you in!" shouted Chris. He was desperate to get Ian back on the boat. He knew Ian was injured but he didn't know why. Ian just kept flailing back and forth calling out in pain.

"It looks like we need to jump in after him," said Jeff. Jeff slipped on his life vest and dove into the water. His strokes were graceful and smooth. It didn't take long for Jeff to reach Ian. When he got close to Ian, he could see what the trouble was. Jeff froze. He didn't dare get closer to Ian. Ian was smack dab in the middle of some jellyfish. Flashbacks of last summer caused Jeff to cringe. A jellyfish had stung him, and he knew what Ian was dealing with.

"What is it?" called Chris. "Why did you stop?" Chris was starting to panic. What could be the problem? Ian was a great water skier, and he had never had problems before. Ian was so good that he could ski without a ski. And now, Jeff. Jeff wouldn't answer Chris and he seemed frozen in the water.

"Answer me!" called Chris. "You've got to tell me what is wrong!"

"Jelly," was all Jeff could mutter.

"Jelly? This is no joking matter," said Chris. "We are not having jelly or peanut butter for that matter." Just then Chris began to realize what was going on. There must be jellyfish in the water!

STORY QUESTIONS

1. According to the story, you could determine that Jeff is . . .
 - a. intelligent.
 - b. immature.
 - c. a good swimmer.
 - d. hard working.
2. Which paragraph helps you answer the previous question?
 - a. second paragraph
 - b. first paragraph
 - c. fourth paragraph
 - d. third paragraph
3. What is the meaning of the word *flailing* as used in the passage?
 - a. forcing
 - b. paralyzing
 - c. thrashing
 - d. annoying