

I SURVIVED Tornado Terror



BOOK STUDY

Name: _____

Before Reading:

Complete the '*What I already know*' and '*What I want to know*' sections of the KWL chart. When you finish reading *I Survived: True Stories: Tornado Terror* complete the '*What I learned*' section.

What I already know about tornadoes	What I want to know about tornadoes	What I learned about tornadoes

Pre-reading: Look at the cover and the pictures throughout the book. Make a prediction of what you think this book might be about.

Connect: Have you ever read any other books from the *I Survived* series? If so, what do you remember about them?

After Reading: "The Devil's Wind"

Reflect: What two terrible tornadoes did the author choose to write about?

1.

2.

Read for Details: In which decade did scientists start studying tornadoes?

- a) Scientists started studying tornadoes in the 1770s.
- b) Scientists started studying tornadoes in the 1870s.
- c) Scientists started studying tornadoes in the 1970s.



After Reading #1: "Everybody Must Be Dead"

The Tri-State Tornado, 1925

Reflect: Which three states did the Tri-State Tornado strike?

- 1) _____ 3) _____
- 2) _____

Read for Details: In which year did the Tri-State Tornado strike the United States?

- a) 1925
- b) 1945
- c) 1965



Read for Details: About how many lives did the Tri-State Tornado take?

- a) The tornado killed approximately 7 people.
- b) The tornado killed approximately 70 people.
- c) The tornado killed approximately 700 people.

Reflect: What was the most popular game played by boys in the 1920s?

- a) jacks
- b) marbles
- c) hopscotch



True or False: Answer the true or false questions. If the answer is false, fix the statement to make it correct.

- 1) The Tri-State Tornado was the deadliest tornado to ever hit the U.S.

☐ True

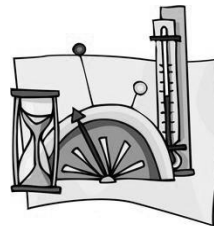
☐ False

Reread to Clarify: *"But nobody in and around Parrish knew that a ferocious storm had set its sights on their town."* What is one reason the citizens of Parrish did not know about the incoming storm?

1) _____

Reflect: What is meteorology?

- a) The science of meteors
- b) The science of weather
- c) The science of insects and bugs



Reflect: In which state did the deadliest hurricane in U.S. history hit?

- a) Tennessee
- b) California
- c) Texas



Cause and Effect: Fill in the cause.

Cause: _____

Effect: *"The very word - tornado - was actually banned from US government weather reports. Meteorologists weren't allowed to use the word in their forecasts."*

Vocabulary: *"Adrian's mom and dad - Edna and John - had a loving marriage. Edna doted on the kids and their animals."*

What does the word doted most likely mean?

- a) extremely unpleasant, distressing, or sinister
- b) to be very loving of somebody or something
- c) boring, tedious, or uninteresting



Compare and Contrast: Compare and contrast the school Adrian attended and the school you attend.

Reflect: In which state did the Tri-State Tornado originate (start off)?

- a) Missouri
- b) Montana
- c) Illinois



Figurative Language: Write the type of figurative language used in the following excerpt.

alliteration	hyperbole	metaphor
onomatopoeia	personification	simile

"Like a giant bird gripping a terrified rabbit in its claws, the tornado carried the school for hundreds of yards."

Reflect: How long does the average tornado stay on the ground?

- a) about ten seconds
- b) about ten minutes
- c) about ten hours



Reread to Clarify: What made the Tri-State Tornado so unique?

Vocabulary - Context Clues: Define the underlined words using context clues and/or a dictionary.

"Eleven-year-old Adrian Dillon had heard stories about ferocious monsters lurking near his Illinois town."

ferocious - _____

Which is **not** a synonym of ferocious?

- a) violent
- b) gentle
- c) fierce

"It was a roiling black cloud, so enormous that it seemed to stretch across the entire sky."

roiling - _____

Reflect: What is one reason it took help so long to reach the injured and people in need after the tornado struck?

1) _____

Reflect: How long did it take the Tri-State Tornado to destroy the city of Murphysboro?

- a) two minutes
- b) two hours
- c) two days



Connect: Review the pictures of the aftermath of the Tri-State Tornado on pages 34 through 45. What emotions did you feel as you were able to see a glimpse of the devastation caused by the tornado? Explain your thinking.

Infer: *"His blood turned to ice as he realized he was looking at a massive tornado."*

Based on the excerpt, which best describes how Adrian was feeling?

- a) enthusiastic
- b) terrified
- c) miserable

Reflect: *"We have to get back to school!"* Adrian raced back to school when he saw the tornado approaching. Where was Adrian heading when he first saw the massive tornado?

- a) Adrian was heading home from school.
- b) Adrian was going to a marbles tournament.
- c) Adrian was going to work on the farm.



Vocabulary - Synonym and Antonym: Write a synonym and an antonym of the underlined word.

"Farming was a safer job than mining. And the Dillon house was a happy one."

Synonym of happy: _____

Antonym of happy: _____

Reflect: In which state did the Tri-State Tornado come to an end?

- a) Missouri
- b) Illinois
- c) Indiana



Reflect: How long did the Tri-State Tornado stay on the ground?

- a) 1 hour 30 minutes
- b) 2 hours 30 minutes
- c) 3 hours 30 minutes

Reread to Clarify: Adrian's mother was home when the tornado struck Parrish. What happened to the family's home during the tornado?

Read for Details: Approximately how fast was the wind speed of the Tri-State Tornado?

- a) 30 miles per hour
- b) 300 miles per hour
- c) 3,000 miles per hour



Reflect: What are two ways the Red Cross aided people who suffered by the devastating tornado?

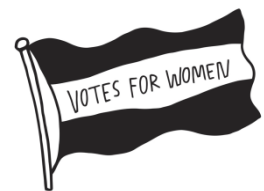
1) _____

2) _____

Infer: Do you think the Tri-State Tornado would have been more or less destructive if it happened this year instead of touching ground in 1925? Explain your reasoning.

Read for Details: In which year did women win the right to vote?

- a) 1920
- b) 1925
- c) 1929



Reread to Clarify: Why did the 1920s receive the name the "roaring twenties"?

After Reading #2: The Evil Swirling Darkness **The True Story of the Joplin Tornado, May 22, 2011**

Read for Details: How many people lost their lives to the Joplin Tornado?

- a) 16 people lost their lives
- b) 161 people lost their lives
- c) 1,600 people lost their lives



Reflect: In which state is Joplin?

- a) Missouri
- b) Illinois
- c) Indiana

Read for Details: *"...April 2011, had been one of the most violent weather months in history."* How many tornadoes touched down in the U.S. in April 2011?

- a) 75 tornadoes
- b) 87 tornadoes
- c) 758 tornadoes

Read for Details: Which thunderstorms are the most powerful?

- a) single cell thunderstorms
- b) multiple cell thunderstorms
- c) supercell thunderstorms



Word Meaning—Prefix: *"These are the violent storms that sometimes unleash tornadoes."*

Underline the base word and circle the prefix in:

unleash

What does the circled prefix mean? _____

In which word does the prefix 'un-' mean the same as it does in 'unleash'?

- a. uniform
- b. underneath
- c. unimaginable

Reflect: *"For days, Jeff had been keeping his eye on a large and dangerous storm system."* Where did this dangerous storm system form?

- a) Off the coast of Alaska
- b) In the Rocky Mountains
- c) Near Denver, Colorado

Reflect: What is one way storm chasers like the Piotrowskis are beneficial to meteorologists and the National Weather Service?

1) _____

Figurative Language: Write the type of figurative language used in the following excerpt.

alliteration	hyperbole	metaphor
onomatopoeia	personification	simile

"Tornadoes are like secretive monsters coming to life inside dark caves. They remain completely hidden until they roar out of the storm clouds to devour everything in their paths."



Cause and Effect: Fill in the cause.

Cause: _____

Effect: In Joplin in 2011 many people did not take the tornado siren seriously.

Reread to Clarify: *"What made this tornado especially dangerous was that it had become 'rain-wrapped.'"* Why was it so dangerous that the tornado had become 'rain-wrapped'?

Cause and Effect: Fill in the cause.

Cause: _____

Effect: The citizens of Joplin realized there was no false alarm. Many moved to safety.

Read for Details: How wide was the monstrous twister that hit Joplin?

- a) One-quarter of a mile wide
- b) One-half of a mile wide
- c) Three-quarters of a mile wide

Vocabulary - Context Clues: Define the underlined words using context clues and/or a dictionary.

"Tornadoes, however, remain stubbornly mysterious."

stubbornly - _____

Reread to Clarify: Which is the best area to take shelter in when a tornado is approaching?

- a) A small underground room
- b) A large store, such as the Home Depot
- c) A large vehicle, such as a pick-up truck



Reflect: What is the name of the scale used to rate tornadoes by size and strength?

True or False: Answer the true or false questions. If the answer is false, fix the statement to make it correct.

- 1) All supercell thunderstorms form tornadoes.

☐ True

☐ False



- 2) The Joplin Tornado twister was an EF3 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale.

☐ True

☐ False

Reflect: What is one way the community came together after the enormous tornado struck Joplin?

- 1) _____
- _____

Read for Details: How many houses were destroyed by the Joplin Tornado?

- a) About 70 houses
- b) About 700 houses
- c) About 7,000 houses

Reflect: When rebuilding the schools in Joplin, what are two ways the schools were built to limit the destruction and devastation of future tornadoes?

- 1) _____

- 2) _____

Parts of Speech: *"May had been quieter. But now the skies were angry again."*

Which part of speech is angry as used in the above excerpt?

- a) adjective
- b) noun
- c) verb



Read for Details: How much money was spent to rebuild after the Joplin Tornado?

- a) \$3,000,000
- b) \$300,000,000
- c) \$3,000,000,000

Reflect: Which four states make up Tornado Alley?

- 1) _____ 3) _____
- 2) _____ 4) _____

True or False: Answer the true or false questions. If the answer is false, fix the statement to make it correct.

1) Three-quarters of all tornadoes on Earth happen in the United States.

☐ True

☐ False

Reread to Clarify: Match the extreme weather word with its meaning.

Extreme Weather Word	Meaning
Cyclone	A tornado over water
Doppler	An alert telling people storms are in the area that could cause tornadoes
Funnel Cloud	A powerful thunderstorm capable of creating tornadoes
Meteorologist	A warning sent out when a tornado funnel has been seen
Supercell	A cone-shaped cloud with strong swirling winds
Tornado Watch	A kind of radar used to track supercells
Waterspout	Another word for tornado
Tornado Warning	A person who studies the science of weather

Reread to Clarify: How does a *tornado-proof* storm chasing car stay secure to the ground when it is caught in high winds?

Reread to Clarify: List the six steps to staying safe during a tornado.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____

Connect: In your current living situation, if a tornado was to hit your neighborhood, where would you wait out the tornado? Explain why this would be your number one choice to avoid harm from the tornado?

After Finishing the Book

Author's Purpose: What is the author's purpose for writing *I Survived: True Stories: Tornado Terror*?

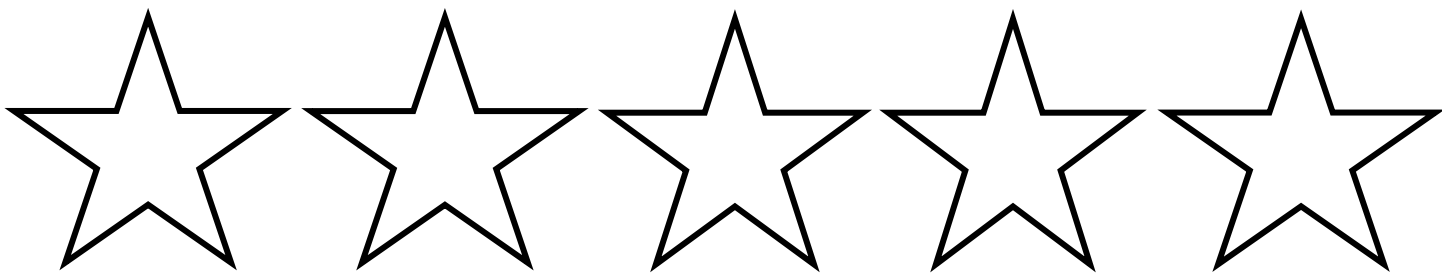
- a. To persuade.
- b. To inform.
- c. To entertain.

Lauren Tarshis



Rating: How many stars would you rate this book?

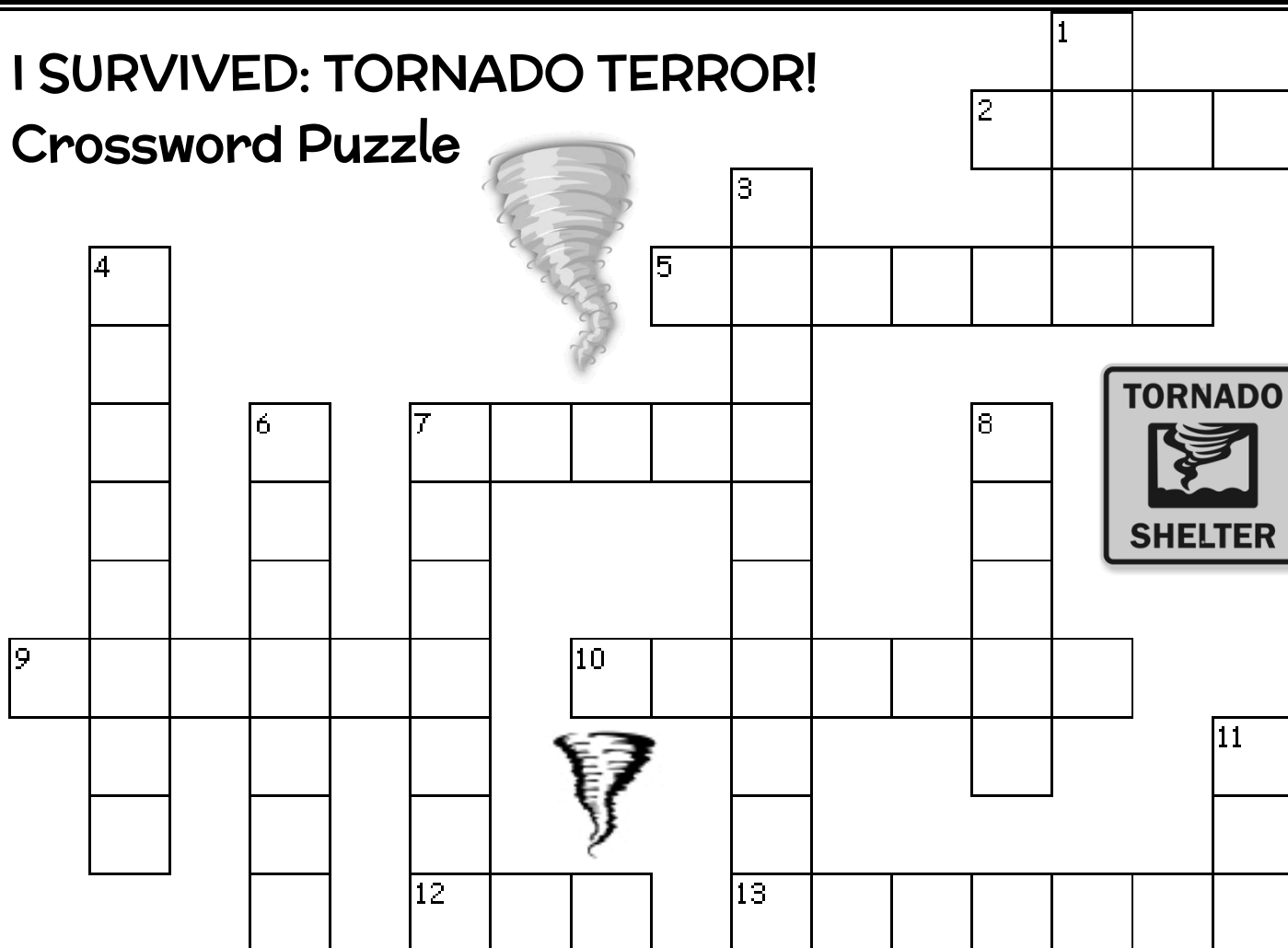
- 1 being terrible and 5 being awesome.
- Be sure to color or shade your rating!



Connect: What did you find most interesting or most surprising about tornadoes? Explain your thinking.

I SURVIVED: TORNADO TERROR!

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

2. Members of the Miami tribe called tornadoes the devil's _____
5. Popular boys game in the 1920s; Adrian was going to this competition
7. Deadliest tornado in history; Tri-_____ Tornado
9. Man who dedicated his life to studying tornadoes; Tetsuya "Ted" _____
10. Type of radar used to track supercells and other storms
12. Number of schools destroyed in Joplin by the massive tornado
13. Once a funnel cloud hits the ground, it is officially called a _____



DOWN

1. number Strength and size of Joplin Tornado on the Enhanced Fujita Scale
3. A tornado over water
4. State the Tri-State Tornado started in
6. State the Tri-State Tornado ended in
7. Famous storm chaser who lost his life in 2013 in Oklahoma; Tim _____
8. In 1890s, man who used a hot-air balloon to take weather readings; George _____
11. Percentage of all tornadoes that are categorized as EF5