

Name _____

Night of the Twisters By Ivy Ruckman

Chapter 1 As Told By Dan Hatch p. 1, 3-6

1. What is a red letter day?

2. What happened to Dan on the red letter day he described in April?

3. What did Dan describe as a black letter day? Do you wish you knew when they were coming?

Chapter 2 Five O'clock p. 7-16

1. Why did Dan have to take classes from Aunt Goldie every summer? What classes had he taken?

2. Describe Dan's friend Arthur. What is he like? Who's in his family?

3. Is there a time when something bad happened and you remembered weird details? (Dan remembered the comics, his neighbor remembered the paperboy.) What details do you remember?

4. Work on Vocabulary sheet from chapters 1-3.

Chapter 3 Six O'clock P. 17-26

1. How had things changed in Dan's house since his mom had his baby brother?

2. How did Dan react when his dad told him to do the dishes for his mom? What was his dad's response to that?

3. Tell at least 3 differences between Dan and Arthur. Do you think friends should be very similar or different?

4. Complete Story Elements sheet.

Chapter 4 Seven O'clock p. 27-37

1. What did Arthur want to show Dan at Mrs. Smiley's house?

2. What do you think it means when it says no one knew where Aunt Goldie was that night or the next?

3. Is your family more like Arthur's or Dan's from the descriptions? Explain.

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Story Elements

Directions: Identifying the main elements in a story will help you write a better summary. Read pages 3-26 in your *Night of the Twisters* Novel. Complete the page below then write a summary of those pages. Remember to refer to your Writers Express book pages 216-219 if you need help.

Main Characters:

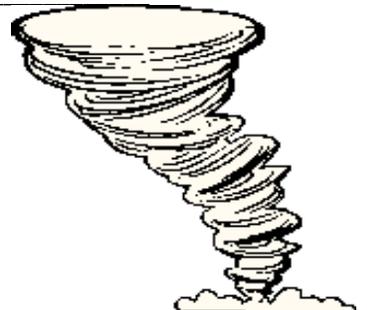
Setting:

Problem:

Solution:

Sequence the main events so far in the story:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Chapter 5 Eight O'clock p. 38-50

1. What was Dan's mom sewing?

2. Where did Dan's mom go when she left and why?

3. Have you ever been in a bad storm? Tell about it. (25 words)

4. Do vocabulary sheet for chapters 4-5.

Chapter 6 Nine O'clock p.51-60

1. What do you think was the smartest thing the boys did in this chapter? Why?

2. What did Ryan do during the tornado that made Dan feel better?

3. List at least 5 people/animals/things the boys worried about in this chapter.

4. Why did Dan make his way to the shower during the tornado?

Chapter 7 The Next Hour or So p. 61-85

1. Summarize what happened when Dan, Arthur, and Ryan were in the basement. (30 words)

2. Describe what Dan and Arthur saw as they looked up from under the blanket after the hail stopped.

3. What happened to Ronnie Vae during the tornado?

4. Complete Vocabulary Sheet for chapters 6-7.

Chapter 8 Later On Pages 86-100

1. Describe the boys' experience in Mrs. Smiley's house. Did they find her? (30 words)

2. Who was Dan worried about after talking to the police officer?

3. Why did the police officer tell them to get out of the area as soon as possible?

Chapter 9 Eleven O'clock Pages 101-111

1. What were some of the messages Dan, Arthur, and Stacy overheard on the police radio?

2. What happened as they were driving to K-Mart? (40 words)

3. Dan was called upon to help an adult with a grown up task. What adult task could you help with if needed? Explain how you learned how to do it and how confident you are with the skill.

4. Complete Vocabulary sheet 8-9.

Chapter 10 Midnight Pages 112-130

1. Describe how officer Kelly looked when they entered the police station.

2. Why was Arthur worried that he had caused the tornado? Why did Dan think he was being punished with a tornado?

3. Dan was very worried about his family during the tornado. Write about something you worry about. What do you do to make yourself feel better?

Chapter 11 Early Morning P. 131-142

1. What did Dan discover when he reached K-Mart? How did that make him feel? What would you have done if you were him?

2. Who did Dan find on his way to his house? Describe the scene. (30 words)

3. Dan has had a traumatic day! What would you do if you were there to help him?

4. Complete Vocabulary Sheet 10-13

Chapter 12 As Remembered One Year Later P. 143-153

1. Where was Aunt Goldie during the tornado? What happened to her?

2. Which groups of people or organizations helped with the clean up?

3. What happened to Mrs. Smiley?

4. Give at least 3 facts about the Grand Island tornadoes that caused them to be labeled as "a first class freak".

Final Activities

1. Mrs. Smiley mentions Sir Edmund Hillary on page 94. Write a 100 word report about him and his most famous accomplishment.
2. Research emergency kits. What items would you put into an emergency kit and why? Tell at least 10 items, how you'd pack them, where you'd put the pack. (at least 50 words)
3. Write a journal entry as if you are Dan or Arthur. Write at least 100 words one year after the tornado.
4. Make a brochure to share tornado safety information with others. Make sure to include some color pictures and at least 10 reliable facts.
5. Make a colored map of Grand Island, Nebraska. Have a color code and key for important places. Search online for the main streets/buildings discussed in the story for accuracy. (Meves Bowl, Stolley Park School, Armory, Fonner Park Racetrack, Pagoda Lounge, K-Mart, Dodge School). **Put fictional Fonda Way and Sand Crane Dr. somewhere on the map along with Dan's house, Aunt Goldie's House, Mrs. Smiley's house, and Arthur's house.
6. Do research about the author, Ivy Ruckman. Why did she choose to write this story? Find out who she dedicated this book to and why. (75 words)
7. Make a movie poster advertising this book. Include title, actors/actresses, picture, catchy slogan, etc)
8. Act out a scene from the story. Write a script before presenting it.
9. Smells were mentioned a lot in the book: coffee, cookies, storms, etc. Make cookies to share with the class. Tell us about a smell that reminds you of something.

Grading Scale

5 Activities = A

4 Activities = B

3 Activities = C

2 Activities = D