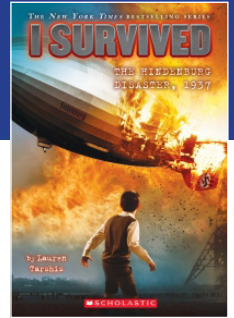


Name: _____

I Survived The Hindenburg Disaster, 1937



CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS AND ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS:

1. Why is Mom nervous about traveling on the *Hindenburg*? How do Hugo and Dad try to make her feel better?

2. Why does Hugo both feel like the luckiest kid on the planet, and not lucky at all?

3. Hugo and his family are enjoying themselves as they dine with Marty, Mr. Singer, and a few other passengers...until someone else arrives. Who enters the dining room? Why are these people important to the story?

4. Who does the cobra in Hugo's nightmare represent? How do you know? What causes Hugo to have the nightmare about the cobra?

5. Why does Mr. Singer think it's possible that Hitler would turn the *Hindenburg* into a weapon?

Name: _____

I Survived The *Hindenburg* Disaster, 1937

CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS AND ESSAY ASSIGNMENT (CONTINUED)

6. How can you describe Hugo and Gertie's relationship based on the fact that Hugo goes to great lengths to get Panya for her? Why is he so worried about her?

7. How does Hugo's memory of the one-eared baboon help him keep Mr. Singer from being discovered?

8. How does the tragedy of the *Hindenburg* actually help Mr. Singer?

9. Why is Hugo afraid to leave the hospital and go out into the world again after the *Hindenburg* disaster?

10. At the end of the book, what helps Hugo to feel more positive about his journey on the *Hindenburg*, and why?



ESSAY ASSIGNMENT: Answer the organizer questions on the next page to help you write a two-paragraph essay detailing Hugo's bravery in the book and explaining how it inspires you.

Name: _____

I Survived The
Hindenburg Disaster, 1937

CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS AND ESSAY ASSIGNMENT *(CONTINUED)*

THREE-PARAGRAPH ESSAY ORGANIZER FOR *I SURVIVED THE HINDENBURG DISASTER, 1937*

Answer the questions below to brainstorm ideas for your first paragraph, which will be your introduction:

How would you describe Hugo's bravery? Is he brave for his family? Is he brave for the greater good?

For your second paragraph, list two examples of Hugo's bravery, one in which he's brave for his family and one in which he's brave for the greater good:

1. _____

2. _____

Next, answer the questions below to help you write a concluding paragraph.

Which type of bravery most inspires YOU? Why? Explain in what way(s) you might like to be like Hugo.

Now, write your essay on the back of this page or on a computer using your answers above.

I Survived The Hindenburg Disaster, 1937

ANSWERS

CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS:

1. Mom is nervous about flying six-hundred feet in the air and across the Atlantic Ocean on a ship that is powered by flammable gas. Dad tells Mom that the Germans have a perfect safety record with the zeppelins, and Hugo tells her the amazing facts that he's read about all the trips the zeppelins have safely made. He explains that the *Hindenburg* is the safest way to travel.
2. Hugo feels like the luckiest kid on the planet because he is getting to fly across the ocean on the world-famous *Hindenburg*. But he also feels "anything but lucky" because his sister, Gertie, is sick with malaria and needs special medical attention.
3. Three Nazi officers enter the dining room wearing swastika armbands, including Colonel Kohl, who is known to be close to Hitler. They know that they Nazis are very dangerous people. Also, one of the guests suspects that Kohl is on the *Hindenburg* searching for a spy who stole a top-secret document from the Nazis.
4. The cobra represents Colonel Kohl, with its pale blue eyes and red stripes like a Nazi armband. Hugo has the nightmare about the cobra after Gertie says that Kohl reminds her of a cobra and Mr. Merrick says that Kohl is going to catch the spy.
5. There is a history of Germany using zeppelins as weapons in World War I. The Germans used zeppelins to drop bombs on England and France.
6. Hugo and Gertie are very close, and Hugo would do anything to help his sister. He's very worried about her because she's got malaria and she needs special medical treatment.
7. Hugo remembers how the one-eared baboon was able to distract the giant hippo so that he could drink from the watering hole that the hippo was guarding. He realizes that if he distracts Kohl, Mr. Singer might be able to get away.
8. Right before the explosion, Kohl finds Mr. Singer and confronts him, having figured out that Mr. Singer is the spy. But when the explosion happens, a giant metal beam falls on Kohl. Then Mr. Singer is able to jump out the window to safety.
9. Hugo knows that everyone will want to hear his story, but he wants to stop thinking about it. He is having nightmares about the tragedy. He's also struggling with the memories while he's awake.
10. When Hugo sees that his sister is healthy again, he realizes that their journey on the *Hindenburg* helped save her life. He feels that, despite the tragedy, flying through the sky on the zeppelin had been a magical experience.

ESSAY ASSIGNMENT: Answers will vary but should include some variation of the idea that Hugo was brave for his family by going to get Panya when Gertie needed him, and brave for the greater good by helping Mr. Singer escape Colonel Kohl.