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Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Hurricane Katrina**

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit the United States' Gulf Coastal area. Winds from the hurricane struck land at 100 to 140 miles per hour. Katrina is estimated to have caused over one hundred billion dollars in damages to areas in the United States.

Why was this hurricane so catastrophic? One reason is the amount of area affected by the storm. The damaging winds reached over four hundred miles across the continent. People in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama all felt the effects of Katrina's raging wind and rain. The storm also caused levees to fail, which led to massive flooding. After the storm, many were left without food, water, or shelter.

As the storm was predicted to approach New Orleans, the mayor issued a mandatory evacuation. For those

unable to leave, the city stadium—the Superdome—would be used as a temporary shelter. Despite the evacuation order, many people without funds or transportation were unable to leave. Eventually, some ten thousand people would seek shelter in the Superdome and still others chose to wait out the storm in their own homes despite the order to leave.

Although the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina was horrific, many heroes came out of such a terrible tragedy. People risked their lives to save others. People offered what they had to help those in need. Sadly, nearly two thousand people died. The effects of Hurricane Katrina can still be seen today despite the efforts of those hoping to rebuild what was lost.

**Text Questions** .....

- Using information from the text, list two reasons people may have been unable to leave New Orleans once the mandatory evacuation order was given.
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- Using clues from the text, what is the purpose of a levee?
  - to direct traffic
  - to control floodwaters
  - to control levels of radiation
  - to mandate evacuations
- Why did the mayor order a mandatory evacuation?
  - He felt that everyone needed to go on vacation.
  - He believed the city would be destroyed.
  - He wanted the city all to himself.
  - He felt conditions would become unsafe for the people there.
- After reading this passage, what is one thing that could be done to protect the people of New Orleans in the event of future hurricanes?
  - Everyone could be given a car so they could more easily evacuate.
  - The levees could be strengthened to hold back floodwaters.
  - All people living in New Orleans should move to other cities.
  - There are no safety measures that could be done to protect from future hurricanes.
- Which is a synonym for the word *catastrophic* as it is used in the second paragraph?
  - wonderful
  - satisfying
  - majestic
  - terrible

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Jellyfish**

Jellyfish are one of the most unique creatures found in the oceans. Their soft bodies are made of a material that is soft and jellylike. This material actually supports the equally soft material that makes up their bodies. This substance is extremely important to the aquatic animals because it allows them to float through the water.

Like most other animals, jellyfish can range in size. Some are microscopic, while the main body of others can grow as large as seven feet. The extensions that hang from their bodies are called tentacles. These

tentacles vary in number and length according to the type of jellyfish. Some jellyfish have tentacles that are over one hundred feet long! Another interesting feature about jellyfish is their color. They can be various colors including white, pink, blue, and pale orange.

Jellyfish produce eggs. These eggs go through stages like tadpoles turning into frogs. To protect themselves during their changes, they often attach themselves to hard surfaces underneath the ocean. Once they develop, they detach themselves to join the other jellyfish in the ocean.

**Text Questions** .....

1. List three characteristics of a jellyfish.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Which part of the text helps you to explain your answer for question one?
  - a. the title
  - b. first paragraph
  - c. second paragraph
  - d. paragraphs one and two
  
3. Which is an antonym for the word *microscopic* as it is used in the second paragraph?
  - a. tiny
  - b. miniscule
  - c. minute
  - d. colossal
  
4. What is the purpose of the third paragraph?
  - a. to describe the different types of jellyfish
  - b. to explain how jellyfish are reproduced
  - c. to inform the reader how unusual jellyfish are
  - d. to compare jellyfish to other aquatic animals
  
5. Which of the following statements is an opinion?
  - a. Jellyfish are one of the most unique creatures found in the oceans.
  - b. Jellyfish can range in size.
  - c. Some jellyfish have tentacles that are over one hundred feet long!
  - d. Jellyfish produce eggs.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### The Titans

The Titans were the original twelve rulers in Greek mythology. They existed before the twelve deities that ruled on Mount Olympus. According to the various myths, in the beginning there was Chaos. From Chaos came Heaven and Earth, and from these came the Titans.

According to the myths, the Titans had other children besides the twelve deities on Mount Olympus, but these children would be the ones they would fight with for power over Earth. For ten years, the Titans fought their children. Eventually, the children would lose and be banished. The Olympic gods and goddesses had the Titans banished to Tartarus, a place below the Underworld. Here they were to remain imprisoned forever.

Although there are many myths about the Titans, and some modern-day books and movies deal with the Titans, one of the most important myths relates to one of the Titans' children, Prometheus. Prometheus was not one of the twelve Olympians. The myths state that Prometheus played an important role for mankind. Prometheus liked mankind and wanted to help them. To help make their lives easier, Prometheus stole fire from Zeus and shared it with mankind.

The Titans are portrayed as harsh rulers and often as cruel parents in the many myths about them. Yet it is through their descendent Prometheus that mankind was able to have fire. Thus, to the ancient Greeks, the Titans were a vital part of mankind's history.

#### Text Questions .....

1. Who were the Titans?
  - a. the gods and goddesses who lived on Mount Olympus
  - b. the children of Chaos
  - c. deities who were created for modern-day books and movies
  - d. the parents of the twelve deities who lived on Mount Olympus
2. Which statement is a fact from the story?
  - a. The Titans had other children besides the twelve deities on Mount Olympus.
  - b. The Titans were the strongest deities of all the Greek gods and goddesses.
  - c. There are more myths about the Titans than any other Greek deities.
  - d. The Titans could never escape from the Underworld.
3. Why is Prometheus considered an important figure in Greek mythology?
  - a. He saved mankind from severe punishment from the rulers of Mount Olympus.
  - b. He let mankind live on Mount Olympus.
  - c. He was the father of all the Titans.
  - d. He gave fire to mankind.
4. What does the word *vital* mean as it is used in the fourth paragraph?
  - a. unimportant
  - b. frivolous
  - c. desperate
  - d. essential
5. Write a summary of the text in two or three complete sentences.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

**A Time for Hope**

“I found a job, but I’ll have to leave for a while.”

Elijah froze at his father’s words. Since the stock market had crashed in 1929, his family had struggled to make ends meet. His father had lost his job and had been unable to find work. His mother had been doing odd jobs to try to help the family make money, and the entire family had spent their hard-earned cash only when absolutely necessary, trying to keep the family fed and to not lose their home. To hear his father say he had a job was remarkable news, but no one wanted him to leave.

Elijah realized his mother must have already known the news because the eyes of both his mother and father were trained on him, waiting for his reaction.

“That’s great news, Dad,” Elijah managed to say. “What will you be doing?”

Looking relieved at his son’s reaction, his father began to explain. “I will be working at a park in Tennessee.

Along with other men from around the country, I’ll help build needed walkways and bridges and make other improvements to the national park that is located there.”

Elijah’s eyes grew wide in surprise. “Tennessee! But, that’s so far away.”

“It’s far, but we are lucky I’ve found a job. You know that, son.”

Elijah knew this decision was necessary, but he also knew it was hard for his father. He did not want to make it any harder.

“I’ll miss you a lot, but I’m proud of you, Dad. Mom and I will hold down the fort here until you get home.”

When Elijah saw the relief that crossed his father’s face, he knew he had said the right thing. The Depression definitely wasn’t over, but for the first time in a long time, Elijah thought things might get better soon.

**Text Questions**

- Which sentence near the start of the story helps the reader to know the story takes place during the Great Depression?
  - “I found a job, but I’ll have to leave for a while.”
  - Since the stock market had crashed in 1929, his family had struggled to make ends meet.
  - His father had lost his job and had been unable to find work.
  - To hear his father say he had a job was remarkable news, but no one wanted him to have to leave.
- What can the reader infer about Elijah’s relationship with his parents?
 

a. He is not very close to his parents.	c. He and his parents are very close to each other.
b. He is closer to his friends than he is to his parents.	d. He has no relationship with his parents.
- Which line helps the reader know that Elijah’s opinion matters to his father?
  - Elijah realized his mother must have already known the news because the eyes of both his mother and father were trained on him, waiting for his reaction.
  - Looking relieved at his son’s reaction, his father began to explain.
  - “It’s far, but we are lucky I’ve found a job.”
  - “I’ll miss you a lot, but I’m proud of you, Dad.”
- What is the cause of Elijah’s father having to move?
  - He and Elijah’s mother are having trouble with their relationship.
  - Elijah and his father need some time apart from each other.
  - Elijah’s father is going to visit family friends in Tennessee.
  - The only job Elijah’s father could find is in Tennessee.
- Which adjective best describes the family’s relationship?
 

a. caring	c. remorseful
b. self-centered	d. disengaged