

I ESCAPED THE CALIFORNIA CAMP FIRE

By SD Brown and Scott Peters

Reading Comprehension Questions

Chapters 1-24

1. What does Troy think about living in Paradise?
 - 1a. Would your parents leave you home alone overnight?
2. What rules do Troy's parents set for when they're away?
 - 2a. In chapters one and two, what are the warning signs there could be a fire?
3. How do Troy and Emma celebrate their night home alone?
 - 3a. What would you want to do if your parents left you home alone?
4. What wakes Troy up? Why doesn't he realize something is wrong?
 - 4a. How does Troy learn that there's a wildfire near town?
5. What options does Troy come up with to deal with the fire?
 - 5a. Which option does he decide is the best one? And why?
6. Why doesn't Mrs. Jones seem concerned about the fire?
 - 6a. Does Troy believe her? Why or why not?
7. When does Troy realize the fire is really close?
 - 7a. In an emergency, who would you call first?
8. Why does Troy decide to leave instead of taking Mrs. Jones' advice to stay?
 - 8a. Are there times when you should ignore an adult's advice?
9. What's Troy's new plan to escape? What slows him down?
 - 9a. How is Troy handling the responsibility of taking care of his sister?
10. How are Troy's driving skills?
 - 10a. How does Troy feel about leaving Mrs. Jones behind?
11. For who does Troy stop to offer a ride? Why did it turn out to be so frustrating?
 - 11a. What does Troy think about the mindset of older people? What do you think?
12. Where does Troy leave Grandma Hill and her grandsons?
 - 12a. Describe how Troy's and Emma's relationship is changing.
13. How does Troy try to reassure his parents that everything would be okay?
 - 13a. How has Troy changed from the boy he was in Chapter One?
14. What self-doubts does Troy have? What causes them?

14a. How are Midnight and Rascal doing? Do you think it's more or less frightening for them because they are animals?

15. How does Troy try to distract Emma from the fire?

15a. Have you ever acted brave when you were scared?

16. What happened to the Bronco's bumper? Why was it adding to their danger?

16a. If you were Troy, would you feel like giving up? Why do you think he keeps going?

17. What saves the ambulance?

17a. What potential new problem does it cause for Troy and Emma?

18. The road is cleared and it looks like they're going to make it, but what happens?

18a. Who is Scrapper? What does he represent?

19. What big decision does Troy make? Why?

19a. Who seems the most optimistic in this chapter? Emma or Troy?

20. How does Rascal complicate their escape? What would you do? Look for Rascal or go on without her?

20a. How has being a Boy Scout helped Troy so far in the story?

21. Where do Troy, Emma, Rascal and Midnight end up?

21a. Have you ever sat in a hot tub? Have you ever seen the warnings that caution younger children, like Emma, to not sit in hot tubs?

22. What did it look like after the fire burned through the forest?

22a. What do you think Emma, Troy, Rascal and Midnight looked like?

23. How did they find their way back to the road?

23a. How do you think they feel?

24. What kind of people were at the evacuation center?

24a. Why would Troy want to keep a reminder of the fire?

FIRE SAFETY EXERCISES

HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN ACTIVITY

All fires, no matter the size, are dangerous. Understanding fire risks in the home are an important step in staying safe.

IN CLASS:

Have students develop an escape plan for their home.

1. Draw a map showing doors and windows.
2. Know two ways out of every room.

AT HOME:

- 2.5 Go home and discuss this with parents and siblings.
3. Confirm the presence of a working smoke alarm. Learn how to test if it's working, and how to tell if the battery needs replacing.
3. Plan an outside meeting place in case of an emergency.
4. Practice getting out of the house using the escape routes with parents.
5. If there's smoke in the home stay low.
6. If you see fire or smoke, leave. Call 911 from outside on a cell from a neighbor's phone.

MAKE A FIRE SAFETY POSTER

Have students make a fire safety poster for their refrigerator or classroom wall. Here are a few fun tips and ideas:

- Write a fire safety poem or jingle
- Make a list of fire safety tips
- Choose one fire safety slogan and illustrate it
- Divide the poster into a 2x4 grid and draw 4 household items that can start unwanted fires
- List the steps needed to perform a fire drill
- Draw the steps required to use a fire extinguisher

Great websites for parents, teachers and kids:

Fire Safe

Lots of free information, coloring pages, games and more.

<http://www.firesafekids.org/index.html>

National Fire Protection

Free fire safety tip sheets for all types of fires.

<https://www.nfpa.org/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets>