

The captain of an airplane has a big job. The captain has to make sure that the plane is safe. The captain needs to be able to make good decisions. There could be a problem before the plane takes off. The captain checks everything to be sure it is ready. The captain needs to decide if it is safe to fly. Then the captain has to figure out what to do if there is a problem while flying.

In January, 2009, the captain of a plane took off in New York. That's a very busy city. As the plane rose, it ran into some birds. The birds got caught in the engines. Both engines stopped. The captain had to figure out how to save the plane. There would not be time to go back to the airport.

He saw a river, the Hudson River. It's a big river. But there were boats on it. And the water was cold. Still, he knew that would be the safest place to land. He told the passengers to get ready for a hard landing. He wanted to be sure they got to safety.

In the cabin, the passengers were scared. The airline workers told them to do their best. They said to put their heads down and hold on tight. Passengers did that. They looked at each other. Family members held hands. They told each other how they felt.

Then the plane hit the water. It was a jolt. Then water started coming into the plane. But they helped each other. The airline workers helped them get out. When everyone was safe, the captain left, too.

They were standing on the wings of the plane as it floated in the water. It was sinking. But boats came to get them. There were firemen on the boats. There were police officers, too. The people on the boats said they were lucky to have such a good captain.

He said, it is not about me. We all did it together. In fact, you're the heroes.

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question

1. How did the family members feel about each other?

- a. worried
- b. caring
- c. angry
- d. sad

2. How did the passengers feel about the captain?

- a. grateful
- b. surprised
- c. caring
- d. worried

3. How did the captain feel about the people who came to help them on the boats?

- a. grateful
- b. worried
- c. surprised
- d. sorry

4. How does the captain feel about the passengers?

- a. responsible
- b. worried
- c. difficult
- d. changing

5. *Write your own answer to this question.*

How do you think the people on the boats felt about the passengers? Why?

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	b	a	a	a

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

5. Glad to be able to rescue them because they wanted to help people.

Skill: Identify, analyze, and infer relationships **6th Grade Assessment**

FICTION

Text: The Hero

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I was flying home from New York. I was looking forward to seeing my family. I had been away for a week. I missed my children.

The plane took off on a bright morning. Then after three minutes there was big trouble. I saw a fire outside. One of the engines was on fire.

I said to the woman next to me, "We have to go back. We're going to crash." The woman was so worried she could not talk.

Then the stewardess came and told us we need to land. "It will be hard. So brace yourselves. Put your head down. Hold tight." She sounded brave. But her face was so worried. Still, she was doing her job, taking care of us.

I looked at the woman next to me. I said, "I hope we're ok. Let's pray for the best. I believe people should help each other. So I will pray for you, too."

I was praying to be saved when there was a big thud. The plane had hit something. Later I found it was the river.

When I got out of my seat, there was another passenger just standing there. He was dazed. "Take my hand," I said. "Let's go."

So I pulled him along as I went to the emergency exit. Then we were on the wing of the plane. We were standing in the river. I was too surprised to think about anything.

Then we got on a rescue boat. I hugged the fireman on the boat. "Thank you for saving my life," I said. "Thank yourselves," he said. "And your captain. He's my hero today."

I found my cell phone was in my pocket. I took it out and called my family. When they answered the phone I said, "Don't worry, I'm fine, but there was problem. I will see you later. I will be so glad to be home with you."

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question

6. Why did the passenger hold the other person's hand?

- a. She was afraid.
- b. She had many friends.
- c. She did not know what to do.
- d. She helped other people..

7. Why did the fireman say the captain was a hero?

- a. He was smart.
- b. He admired him.
- c. He had put out the fire.
- d. He had gotten off the plane.

8. How did the passenger feel about her family?

- a. She loved them.
- b. She worried about them.
- c. She was going home to them.
- d. She would not be home soon.

9. How did the stewardess feel about the passengers?

- a. worried
- b. sad
- c. responsible
- d. careful

10. *Write your own answer to this question.*

Who is another hero in this story, besides the captain? Why?

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Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	6	7	8	9
Answer	d	b	a	c

Question 10 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

10. The stewardess; she helped even though she was afraid. The passenger; she helped others.