

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Text Features & Structure

Read the short story and answer each question.



How to Stay Safe in a Thunderstorm

What Is a Thunderstorm?

A thunderstorm is a type of weather with thunder, lightning, wind, and rain. Thunderstorms can be dangerous, especially if you're outside when one begins.

Step 1: Go Indoors Right Away

If you hear thunder or see lightning, go inside a building or car immediately. Being outside can be unsafe during a storm.

Step 2: Stay Away from Water

Do not swim or take a bath during a thunderstorm. Water can carry electricity, and lightning can travel through pipes.

Step 3: Don't Use Electronics

Unplug your devices if possible, and stay off wired phones. Lightning can travel through power lines and cause damage.

Step 4: Wait for the All Clear

Stay indoors until at least 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder. This helps make sure the storm has passed.

Thunderstorms may be loud and sudden, but by following steps and paying attention to warnings, you can stay safe.



Name: _____

How to Stay Safe in a Thunderstorm

1. Why did the author divide the passage into numbered steps?

- A. To show the correct order of actions to stay safe during a thunderstorm
- B. To tell a story about a thunderstorm
- C. To list weather facts
- D. To describe different kinds of clouds

2. What do the bold headings help the reader do?

- A. Understand what each step is about more easily
- B. Count how many thunderstorms happen
- C. Write a new safety rule
- D. Find phone numbers for help

3. Fill in the blank:

The text says to wait **30 minutes** after the last sound of _____ before going back outside.

4. How does the structure of this passage help the reader follow the instructions?

5. What do the text features (like bold headings and steps) help you understand better?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: M

Lexile Level: 425L-575L

Grade Level: 3rd Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Informational / Safety Procedures

Introducing the Text

"Today we're reading a nonfiction passage about how to stay safe in a thunderstorm. As we read, we'll look at how the author uses steps and bold headings to organize information in a way that helps us follow it clearly."

Vocabulary: thunderstorm, lightning, electricity, unplug, warning

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you already know about thunderstorms?
 2. Have you ever had to stay safe during a storm?
 3. What types of things might you see in a safety guide?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is the purpose of numbering the steps?
 2. Why do you think the author used bold titles?
 3. What kinds of actions are repeated across different steps?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How did the way the passage was written help you understand what to do?
 2. What would be harder to understand if the author didn't use steps and headings?
 3. How could you use this kind of structure to explain another safety topic?
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Activity Idea

Have students create their own "How-To" safety poster using numbered steps and bold headings. They can choose a topic like fire safety, crossing the street, or bike safety. Encourage them to draw pictures to match each step.

