



LITERARY-DEVICE

ACTIVITY AND CONTEXT REVIEW

CHARACTER: A simile uses “like” or “as” to make a comparison. Below, find the simile in the book, using the page number listed in the first column, and fill in the blank in the second column. Then, in the third column, rewrite the simile in your own words by making a different comparison.

PAGE	FILL IN THE SIMILE FROM THE BOOK	IN YOUR OWN WORDS
2	The sky exploded like _____.	The sky exploded like _____.
6	But she ruled over the schoolhouse like _____.	But she ruled over the schoolhouse like _____.
25	[Brown's Bitters] tasted like _____.	[Brown's Bitters] tasted like _____.
26	The water was like _____.	The water was like _____.
85	[The sled] rocked back and forth like _____.	[The sled] rocked back and forth like _____.
88	John felt the last of his body's warmth seeping out of him, like _____.	John felt the last of his body's warmth seeping out of him, like _____.

LITERARY-DEVICE ACTIVITY AND CONTEXT REVIEW *(CONTINUED)*

CONTEXT REVIEW: The *I Survived* books are works of historical fiction. Author Lauren Tarshis supplies important information at the back of each book about the events in the story and the history around these events. Use this information—called “context”—to answer the questions below.

1. Who were the pioneers? What made their lives so challenging?

2. Why weren't people prepared for the Children's Blizzard?

3. What were the major differences between American cities and small towns in 1888?

4. Why was America growing so quickly in 1888?

5. What was the Homestead Act? How did it lead to people moving to the prairie?

6. What happened to the Native Americans who lived on the land that was being given to settlers?



ANSWERS

LITERARY-ELEMENT ACTIVITY: SIMILES

PAGE 2: The sky exploded like...a bomb.

PAGE 6: But she ruled over the schoolhouse like...a Civil War general.

PAGE 25: [Brown's Bitters] tasted like...a skunk had died in the bottle.

PAGE 26: The water was like...a mirror.

PAGE 85: [The sled] rocked back and forth like...a tiny boat on a storm-tossed ocean.

PAGE 88: John felt the last of his body's warmth seeping out of him, like...blood leaking from a deep cut.

COLUMN 3: Answers will vary.

CONTEXT REVIEW:

1. The pioneers were people who traveled west to build farms on the prairie and make better lives for themselves. They faced many challenges, including extreme weather.
2. In 1888, people didn't have access to the weather technology that we have today, which allows scientists to predict and track storms. Meteorology was still a new science.
3. Cities like New York and Chicago had electric lights in the streets, fancy department stores and theaters, and indoor toilets. Smalls towns had only a few roads and stores, and the toilets were outside.
4. Immigrants from Europe were coming to the United States in large numbers.
5. The Homestead Act was a law passed by the U.S. government in 1862 that said that any man or single woman over the age of 21 could have 160 acres of land on the prairie for free. Since owning a farm was a dream for many Americans and immigrants, the Homestead Act resulted in many people moving to the prairie.
6. Native Americans were forced off the land by the U.S. Army and the settlers. Soldiers and settlers killed the buffalo—an important food source for the Native Americans—to drive them off the land. The U.S. government then forced the Native Americans onto reservations, land set aside for them that was not good for farming or hunting. The treatment of the Native Americans is one of the most shameful episodes in American history.