Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Grade 4

Answer Key

The Day the River Rose

Read both accounts of the same event in the town of Millbrook.

Account 1: Sofia's Journal

Saturday, April 12

It rained for three whole days, and this morning I woke up to sirens. When I looked out my window, our street had turned into a brown river. The water was almost up to our mailbox! Dad carried our photo albums and the TV upstairs while Mom packed snacks and blankets. My heart was pounding the whole time.

Around noon, I saw firefighters paddle a little orange boat right down our street. They helped Mr. Okafor and his dog climb in from his porch. Later, our neighbors gathered on the dry part of the hill and shared hot soup. By evening, the water finally started to go down. I will never forget the sound of the rain drumming on our roof all night long.

Account 2: Newspaper Article

Millbrook River Floods After Heavy Rain

The Millbrook Gazette, April 13

The Millbrook River overflowed its banks on Saturday after more than five inches of rain fell in three days. About forty homes on the east side of town were flooded.

Fire Chief Dana Ruiz said rescue crews used two boats to help twenty-three residents leave their homes. No injuries were reported. The river reached its highest point at about 4 p.m., nearly three feet above flood level. A shelter was opened at Millbrook Middle School for families who could not return home. Volunteers are invited to help with cleanup on Monday morning.

Part A: Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer.

1. Who wrote Account 1?

Answer: c) A girl who lived through the flood

2. According to Account 2, how much rain fell?

Answer: b) More than five inches in three days

3. Which information appears ONLY in Account 2?

Answer: c) Twenty-three residents were helped by rescue crews.

4. Which detail appears ONLY in Account 1?

Answer: a) The writer's heart was pounding.

Part B: True or False

Write T for true or F for false.

5. Both accounts describe the same flood.

Answer: True

6. Sofia's journal reports how many people were rescued.

Answer: False

7. The newspaper article says no injuries were reported.

Answer: True

Part C: Firsthand and Secondhand Accounts

A firsthand account is written by someone who was there and saw the event. It often uses words like I, me, and we. A secondhand account is written by someone who learned about the event from others, like a news reporter.

8. Which account is firsthand? How can you tell?

Account 1 is firsthand. Sofia was there during the flood, and she uses words like I, my, and our to describe what she saw and felt.

9. Name one thing you learn from Account 1 that you cannot learn from Account 2. Then name one thing you learn only from Account 2.

Sample answer: Only Account 1 tells how scared Sofia felt and that neighbors shared soup. Only Account 2 tells that about forty homes were flooded and that a shelter opened at the middle school.

Part D: Think and Explain

10. If you were writing a report about the Millbrook flood, which account would you use, or would you use both? Explain why.

Sample answer: I would use both. Account 2 gives facts and numbers, like how much rain fell and how many people were rescued. Account 1 shows what the flood felt like for a real family. Together they give a complete picture.