

CISD Grade 6 ELAR Unit 5B

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(original expository passage)

Starting Over after the Spill

1) The Gulf of Mexico is deep blue again. Tourists roam the beaches. Children splash in the surf. Two years after the BP oil spill of April 2010, the Gulf Coast appears to be returning to normal. But the people of the Gulf States still feel the impact of the largest spill in U.S. history.

2) The initial explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig killed 11 workers and injured 17 others. But the tragedy didn't end there. The beaches along the Gulf of Mexico were tainted, so resorts had no visitors. The oil killed the fish, so fishermen had no catches to sell. Shrimpers, dependent on the waters off the Gulf for their livelihood, were left idle while clean-up took place. Working-class people struggled to put food on the table while waiting for reparations to be made as promised by BP.

3) The BP Oil Company agreed to pay \$20 billion in the wake of the disaster. Billions were earmarked for actual cleanup. Billions more were to help people affected by the spill. The problem for many victims was how to survive until that help arrived.

4) Early on, BP estimated the cleanup would cost the company \$6 million a day. That figure rose in the weeks that followed. More than 200 million gallons of oil were dumped into the Gulf. States affected by the spill were Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. Louisiana, the hardest hit of the five, boasts 400 miles of coastline. Of that, approximately 125 miles were polluted by the oil spill. In all, a total of 665 miles of coastline were contaminated by oil from the Deepwater Horizon.

5) The response from the public and private sector was immediate. More than 30,000 people came to help in the days after the spill. Some of them worked to collect oil. Others helped clean up beaches. Still others took care of injured wildlife. Thousands of animals were reported dead. Birds, turtles, and other wildlife were among the casualties. The animals that lived through the initial spill died soon after. Many of the animals were already endangered.

6) Meanwhile, BP had its people working around the clock to stop the spill from doing even more damage. Some of those attempts included making use of underwater robots. They also tried putting a "hood" over each of the leaks. Another plan of attack was to drill a relief well to intersect and secure the leaking well. Responders used 5.5 million feet of boom to collect and absorb oil. Boom is a barrier placed in water that draws the oil in and sucks it up.

7) The gushing well was capped in July of 2010. By that time beaches had been closed.

Fishing waters in the Gulf of Mexico had been made off limits. The economic impact was devastating. Tourism officials spent the summer and fall of 2010 trying to change public perception of the Gulf. Within weeks of the spill, BP announced block grants of \$87 million to help promote tourism.

8) Today, BP asserts that they have learned many lessons in the wake of the nation's worst oil spill. New equipment has been developed for oil rigs. New technology is improving safety. BP officials say they hope their experience can be used to improve the response to any potential marine oil spill in the future.

9) That technology is too late to save the men who died on the rig in April of 2010. It's too late to prevent the billions in lost income for coastal resorts. It is also too late for those who looked to the sea for their living. According to Felicia Coleman of Florida State University, "Whether residents were involved in fishing, or in tourism, the losses were huge." She adds, "In some areas, it wasn't even a question of recovery. It ultimately meant the loss of a way of life."

- 1 How does the organizational pattern in Paragraph 2 help to create a mental picture about the Gulf crisis?
- A It uses a cause/effect pattern that helps you see why the economy suffered.
 - B It uses a sequential order that helps you see the events in order, one at a time.
 - C It uses a compare and contrast pattern that helps you to see why this disaster was bigger than other Gulf disasters, such as Katrina.
 - D It uses an order of importance so that the most important issue was presented first and the least important thing was presented last.
- 2 Use the context in Paragraphs 2 and 3 to determine the meaning of the word **reparations** as used at the end of Paragraph 2.
- F rebuilding or reconstruction of things destroyed
 - G something paid in amends for a wrong
 - H apologies made for a wrong
 - J maintenance or upkeep

- 3 turtles : wildlife ::
boom : _____
- A oil spill
 - B ocean
 - C barrier device
 - D absorb
- 4 Which of the following is a proper paraphrase of the information found in Paragraph 4?
- F BP estimated the cleanup would cost the company \$6 million a day. In the end, a total of 665 miles of coastline were contaminated by oil from the Deepwater Horizon.
 - G BP cleaned up 665 miles of coastline that were contaminated by oil.
 - H Early estimates proved too low for the task of cleaning up the spill which affected five states and hundreds of miles of coastline.
 - J BP gave a low estimate of how much it would cost to clean up the coastline from the oil spill.

- 5** All of the following are facts that support the main idea of Paragraph 5 EXCEPT-
- A** People helped clean up beaches.
 - B** Volunteers took care of injured wildlife.
 - C** Some worked to collect oil.
 - D** Animals that were endangered still died.
- 6** Which of the following inferences can be made from the information in Paragraph 9?
- F** The BP Gulf oil spill had a great impact on the economy through unemployment for many Gulf State residents.
 - G** BP paid millions of dollars that protected Gulf State residents from losing their jobs.
 - H** The reparations that BP made protected the Gulf culture so that it was impacted very little.
 - J** While technology helped to end the crisis, it won't be able to deal with a similar crisis in the future.

(Letter to the Editor of a large city newspaper in May of 2010)

Letter to the Editor

Sir:

I am a sixth grader, and I hope you can print this letter for everyone in your city to read. You are located more than 100 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, so you probably don't know how bad things are here along the coast. My family is having a really hard time due to the oil spill which happened in April. We need help! My dad is a shrimp fisherman and right now all the boats have been told to stop fishing until the leak is fixed and the oil is cleaned up. My dad went down to apply for a check since he no longer gets to sell his shrimp, but so far our family has received just one check for \$375.

My mother can't work either. She's a waitress at a restaurant, and she's been laid off since no one is coming to that resort right now since the beach is closed. My mom has applied for unemployment insurance, but she had to stand in line for three hours, and they told her it would take 3-4 weeks for the paperwork to be processed. She cried when she got home.

So things are really bad at my house. Both of my parents seem really sad and quiet. I'm worried about them, and I don't know how our family can pay the rent and buy groceries with that one small check to last our family of five. And we're not alone. Most of my friends at school say their parents are upset and desperate, too. Can someone out there help us?

Signed,
Darby Fullerton

- 7** Which of the following viewpoints can be attributed to Darby through this letter?
- A** If the family doesn't get help, they may lose their home and their health.
 - B** If the family doesn't get help, they will likely turn to BP to help them.
 - C** Her family has suffered but will remain strong even if they don't get help soon.
 - D** The oil spill has affected her family more than other families.
- 8** What is a common theme in *Starting Over after the Spill* and *Letter to the Editor*?
- F** While many people and companies tried to help, great harm was done.
 - G** Environmental disasters have a devastating effect on many people.
 - H** Recovery takes time.
 - J** All of the above are common themes.

Rescue on a Rooftop

1) Whoosh! LaSheila awoke from a fitful dream to the sound of an enormous roar. Had she been dreaming about Niagara Falls? Or of a canoeing trip over the rapids?

2) Oh no, it soon became apparent that the sound was of rushing water coming toward their house in the Ninth Ward. When she lay down for a nap, she thought that Hurricane Katrina had been only a wildly exaggerated hurricane that limped on shore. But now, something was wrong. Very wrong. LaSheila grabbed her clothes and ran to the porch. All along the street people were looking at the approaching water. It was coming so fast! She yelled for her mother to get the car, "Let's get out of here!" But then she remembered that her mother had left for work much earlier that morning for a job in downtown New Orleans. No car, no keys, and besides, LaSheila was only 11 years old!

3) Leaping for the phone, LaSheila tried to call 911. The lines were dead. She grabbed for her cell phone – no signal. Finally, she decided to try to make it to a neighbor's house. He was always home. As she opened the front door of the house, she saw that the only way she was going to make it anywhere was in a boat.

4) Suddenly, she caught a glimpse of Mr. Thompson across the street. He was motioning with his finger upward. LaSheila shrugged her shoulders in confusion. He pointed up again. Then she knew what he meant. As she looked down the street, people were climbing up on their roofs. How could she get up there? Trembling in every muscle of her body, she took the giant step up on the railing of the front porch. Could she reach the roof? No! Panicking, LaSheila looked from right to left. How could she get up higher? There was a tree just to the east of the porch. LaSheila carefully stepped side to side along the railing until she got to the tree. It wasn't that tall, but it seemed to have a sturdy branch that was another 2-3 feet higher than the railing. LaSheila grabbed the branch and leaped with a giant swing of her legs upward. She made it! Now if she could just stand up on that sturdy branch, she would have a chance to make the roof. Posing carefully, she drew her feet up to the branch and carefully stood up with arms reaching skyward, balancing ever so carefully. She made it! She was almost even with the roofline. But what would she grasp to hold her if she made the leap? She was afraid. She couldn't do it. She would just have to stay in the tree. But would anyone see her there? The tree seemed to just swallow her up. LaSheila was so afraid.

5) Suddenly, and without warning, there was a scratching, scooting sound coming from the rooftop. There stood Emilio, that annoying next door neighbor she had insulted so many times. He had made it to his roof and saw LaSheila struggling to make hers. The leap from his residence to hers had been a piece of cake. Now he offered LaSheila a hand, which was hesitantly accepted. With a mighty tug and a show of exceptional strength, Emilio pulled LaSheila to the rooftop. She was so thankful she wanted to hug

him, but she was too afraid of slipping down the roof line.

6) "Now what?" LaSheila asked, exhausted.

7) "Now we wait to be rescued," assured Emilio, who took his white shirt off and intended to use it as a flag to motion to helicopters or airplanes.

8) LaSheila and Emilio were on the rooftop for hours. As time went on, Emilio didn't seem like such an annoying kid after all. LaSheila found out all about his family, his troubles in school, his hopes and dreams, and surprisingly, she told him the same.

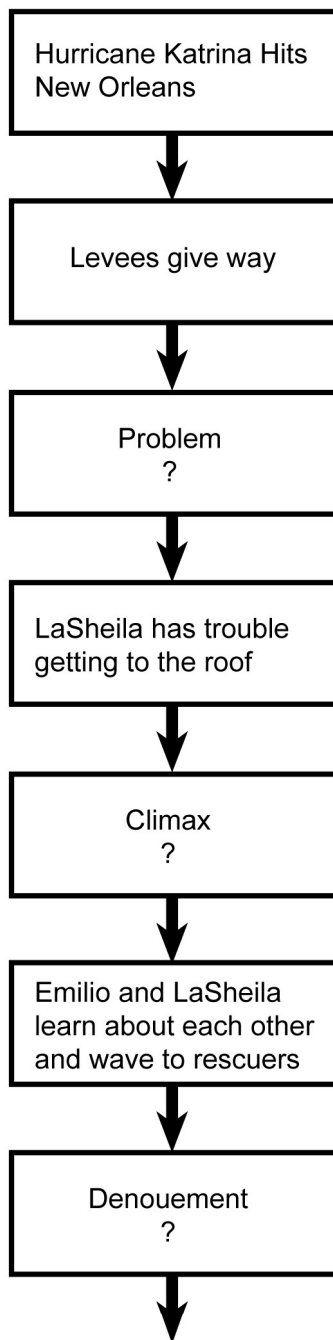
9) About 4:00 in the afternoon, some helicopters flew over and LaSheila and Emilio waved them down with all their might. About an hour after that, a boat came to rescue them. Eventually, they were taken to the Superdome in downtown New Orleans, where, by some miracle, each of them was able to find at least one family member.

10) Many people from the Superdome that day went many different directions. LaSheila and her mother went to Dallas, Texas, to another arena, but eventually got an apartment and people to help them start over. Their home was completely destroyed.

11) Emilio and his father wound up in Baton Rouge in a huge trailer park set up by the government. Emilio is in school, but his dad is still looking for work. It was like they had been transplanted there, but they couldn't get what they needed to grow and bloom.

12) LaSheila and Emilio have not seen each other in years. Their homes, the economy, so much was destroyed that day when the levees gave way. They may never see each other again, but LaSheila says that she will never forget that annoying boy next door who saved her life that terrible day.

- 9** Which of the following is an example of personification in the passage?
- A** *...with a giant swing of her legs upward.*
 - B** *...with arms reaching skyward...*
 - C** *The tree seemed to just swallow her up.*
 - D** *It was like they had been transplanted there.*
- 10** Which of the following is an idiom from the passage used to describe an important event?
- F** *They couldn't get what they needed to grow and bloom.*
 - G** *The leap from his residence to hers had been a piece of cake.*
 - H** *...waved them down with all their might.*
 - J** *...a scratching, scooting sound coming from the rooftop.*



- I. LaSheila and Emilio start over in new places.
 - II. LaSheila is stranded at her house with rushing water coming her way.
 - III. Emilio appears and offers to support her in getting to the roof.
 - IV. LaSheila awakes to the sound of roaring water.
 - V. LaSheila climbs into the tree.
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11 Which of the above belongs in the ***Problem*** section of the graphic above?

- A** I.
- B** II.
- C** III.
- D** IV.

12 Which of the above belongs in the ***Denouement?***

- F** I
- G** II.
- H** III.
- J** IV.

13 Which of the above belongs in the ***Climax*** section of the graphic?

- A** I.
- B** III.
- C** IV.
- D** V.

14 How does the conclusion of *Rescue on a Rooftop* connect with the *Letter to the Editor*? Use text evidence to support your answer.

Facebook Entry:

1) I'm looking for Emilio Barbosa. 2) Emilio used to live in the Ninth Ward in New Orleans Louisiana. 3) Emilio saved my life during Katrina. 4) I'd love to make contact with him. 5) If you have him as a friend on Facebook, please let me know. 6) I really want to get in touch with him. 7) If you get a chance, make him a friend and I'll be able to see him on my list of people I might know.

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- 15** Which of the following is the best way to combine Sentences 3 and 4?
- A** Emilio saved my life during Katrina, and I'd love to make contact with him.
 - B** Emilio saved my life during Katrina, but I'd love to make contact with him.
 - C** Emilio saved my life during Katrina, because I'd love to make contact with him.
 - D** If Emilio saved my life during Katrina, I'd love to make contact with him.