

Name: _____ Date: _____

Describing the Hurricane

Directions: In the nonfiction article "America's Deadliest Disaster," author Lauren Tarshis uses exciting descriptive writing, filled with details that help you see, hear, and feel what Harry Maxson experienced in the Great Galveston Hurricane. Follow the prompts below to find those details and prepare to respond to the writing prompt on page 9.

1. What was the Great Galveston Hurricane like?

The author says that on September 8, 1900, Galveston, Texas, was "being torn to pieces by a brutal hurricane." Find four descriptive details that support this statement. (*Hint: Look in the opening section and in the section "A Raging Sea."*) We've done the first one for you.

Detail 1: "Outside, the wild, churning ocean was like a furious beast devouring his neighborhood."

Detail 2: _____

Detail 3: _____

Detail 4: _____

How might Harry Maxson describe the hurricane? Write one sentence from Harry's point of view. We've started the sentence for you.

"Looking out the front window, I saw _____

2. What makes hurricanes so dangerous?

In the section "No Escape," the author calls hurricanes "the most dangerous" extreme weather event of all. Write three details from the section that support this idea. Then circle the words or phrases in them that especially help you picture how scary and powerful hurricanes are. We've done the first one for you.

Detail 1: "These massive swirling storms have killed more people in America than any other natural disaster."

Detail 2: _____

Detail 3: _____

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What might Harry say about how dangerous hurricanes are? Write one sentence from Harry's point of view.

3. How did Harry feel?

During the storm, Harry hears a woman calling for help. The article says, "Harry wanted to turn away—he could barely swim. How could he possibly help anyone caught in that storm?" The author doesn't expect you to answer this question. Why do you think she wrote it?

Which detail in the opening section tells you what made Harry decide to try to help?

Detail: _____

What might Harry say about how he felt at that moment? Write one sentence from Harry's point of view.

4. What did Harry do?

Write three details that describe what Harry did to help. (Hint: Look in the section "Daring Rescue.")

Detail 1: _____

Detail 2: _____

Detail 3: _____

What might Harry say about what he did? Write one sentence from Harry's point of view.

Write Now! Use the details and sentences you wrote to help you respond to the writing prompt on page 9: Imagine you are Harry. Write a journal entry describing what you did during the Great Galveston Hurricane. Include plenty of descriptive details!