

Paired Text Lessons and Resources

Grade 4

Essential Standard RI 4.9

Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

Using Paired Text

Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

Common Core Standard RI 4.9

Overview:

Students will read two different texts on similar topic to construct meaning from the text

Classroom Resources:

Variety text on the same topic
Paired text chart
Document camera
Rubric for Paired text

Instructional Plan:

Examine different texts with similar topics to make new meaning or understanding of the topic.

Instruction and Activities:

1. Students are to read one article and write notes on things they learned that helped them understand that topic on the one side of the Paired text chart
2. Then student read the second article on the same topic and write notes on things they learned that helped them understand that topic on the other side of the Paired text chart
3. Students should use both sides of the chart to generate a new understanding of the topic.

Student Assessment/Reflections:

Use rubric to grade the paired text chart

Name _____

Paired Text

Read one article, then fill in the left side of the chart, then read the second article and fill in the right side of the chart. Once you have gathered information about the two articles use this information to draw one conclusion about the texts.

Text 1: _____	Text 2: _____
What I learned from this article	What I learned from this article
Using what you learned from both texts, write a conclusion you can make about the topic. _____ _____ _____	

Name _____

Using Paired Text Rubric

	1 Not successful	2 Needs some help but is on the right track	3 Successful
Able to identify the important elements from article 1			
Able to identify the important elements from article 2			
Elements show a connection between the 2 articles			
Able to draw a conclusion about the article that relates to the information presented			
Notes/ comments			

Rubric Scale

12	100
11	96
10	92
9	88
8	84
7	80
6	76
5	72
4	68
3	60

Tornadoes Devastate the Midwest

Powerful twisters slam Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Iowa

APR 28, 2014 | **By Stephanie Kraus with AP reporting**



GARY CROW—TULSA WORLD/AP

A wave of terrible tornadoes ripped through the Midwest and South on Sunday. Arkansas was the hardest hit. The tornado that touched down 10 miles west of the capital, Little Rock, grew to about half a mile wide, and continued on the ground for about 80 miles. Another tornado started in Quapaw, Oklahoma, and crossed into Baxter Springs, Kansas. It destroyed as many as 70 homes and injured 34 people, state and county officials said. As of Monday, the death toll had risen to 16 total for Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Iowa.

The National Weather Service warned that the damaging storms would continue on Monday. The storms will include more tornadoes, damaging winds, and very large hail. The bad weather

will strike in parts of Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, and Louisiana.

Rescue teams are searching for survivors in the rubble left by the natural disaster. "Right now, the main focus is life safety," Brandon Morris, spokesman for the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, said. "We're trying to make sure everyone is accounted for."

The Strongest Storm



DANNY JOHNSTON—AP

A trail of debris shows the tornado's path through Vilonia, Arkansas.

Vilonia and Mayflower were two towns hit hard by the tornado in Arkansas. Meteorologist Jeff Hood with the National Weather Service said the tornado that hit those towns would likely be rated as the nation's strongest twister to date this year. Before Sunday, the country had not had a tornado rated EF3 or higher since November 17. EF3 storms have winds greater than 136 mph.

"Based on some of the footage we've seen from Mayflower things were wrecked in a very significant way," Hood said. Utilities in the area must be shut off to prevent electrical fires from starting, he said.

Surviving the Twister

In the U.S., tornado season typically occurs from April to July. Tornadoes usually form during giant thunderstorms called supercells. During a tornado, the National Weather Service advises people to take shelter in a storm cellar, a basement, or the innermost room on the lowest level of a building.



ROGER NOMER—THE JOPLIN GLOBE/AP

A police officer talks to people in hard-hit Baxter Springs, Kansas.

Karla Ault, a Vilonia High School volleyball coach, said she sheltered in the school gymnasium as the storm approached. After it passed, her husband told her their home had been destroyed by the storm. "I'm just kind of numb," Ault said. "It's just shock that you lost everything. All I've got now is just what I have on."

Among the ruins in Vilonia was a new \$14 million intermediate school that had been set to open this fall. "There's just really nothing there anymore," Vilonia Schools Superintendent Frank Mitchell said. "We're probably going to have to start all over again."

At a news conference in the Philippines, President Barack Obama promised the government would help in the recovery. "Your country will be there to help you recover and rebuild as long as it takes," he said.



Tornadoes Sweep the Midwest

Violent weather leaves destruction across 12 states

NOV 18, 2013 | By Kelli Plasket, with AP reporting



STEVE SMEDLEY—THE PANTAGRAPH/AP

Firefighters from Washington, Illinois, stand near flattened and damaged homes after a tornado swept through the town on November 17.

Dozens of tornadoes and heavy thunderstorms swept across the Midwest on Sunday, bringing damaging winds to 12 states, from Missouri and Tennessee up through western New York. The band of storms flattened neighborhoods, flipped over cars, and uprooted trees.



TASOS KATOPODIS—GETTY IMAGES

A man walks around damaged buildings in Washington. The Illinois town was one of the hardest hit by a fast-moving storm system that produced several tornadoes on November 17.

Illinois was hit hardest. At least six people there were killed and dozens more were injured. Trees and debris from the storm brought down power lines and left roads impassible. Illinois Governor Pat Quinn declared seven counties disaster areas.

In the western Illinois town of Washington, a tornado with wind speeds of at least 170 miles per hour cut a path from one side of town to the other, destroying homes and businesses. “The whole neighborhood’s gone,” resident Michael Perdun told the Associated Press. “The wall of my fireplace is all that is left of my house.”

Washington Mayor Gary Manier estimated that 250 to 500 homes were damaged or destroyed in the storm. “Everybody’s without power, but some people are without everything,” Manier told reporters while standing in the parking lot of a destroyed auto parts store. The Illinois National Guard assisted emergency crews as cleanup efforts got underway in the town early Monday.

The Power of Nature

The storms, all belonging to the same system, were unusually powerful for this late in the year. They were caused by strong winds combined with temperatures in the 60s and 70s, says weather service meteorologist Matt Friedlein.

Twisters usually form during giant thunderstorms called supercells. Many tornadoes are black or brown from the dust and dirt they suck up as they move across the land. During a tornado, the National Weather Service advises people to take shelter in a storm cellar, a basement, or the innermost room on the lowest level of a building.

Damage from the storm was widespread. In Michigan, two people were killed and 500,000 homes and businesses lost power. In Indiana, 12 counties reported either tornadoes or storm damage and tens of thousands of homes went dark.

Governor Quinn promised help to storm victims in his state. "We're all in this together," Quinn said.



Twin Twisters

Tornadoes, including a rare double twister, sweep across Nebraska

JUN 18, 2014 | By Kelli Plasket, with AP reporting



MITCH SCHWEERS—AP

Dual tornadoes approach Pilger, Nebraska on June 16.

Emergency workers are helping residents of a rural Nebraska town pick up the pieces after a tornado flattened homes and businesses earlier this week. The twister was part of a set of tornadoes that traveled side by side for an extended period time—a rare weather event.



MARK FARNIK—AP

A woman walks down a road in Pilger, Nebraska, on June 16, after the town was heavily damaged by a tornado.

One of the tornadoes destroyed nearly all the buildings in Pilger, a 350-person farming town in northeast Nebraska. Many homes were reduced to debris or swept away. Two people were killed, and at least 19 were taken to the hospital.

"This is by far the worst thing I've ever seen as governor," said Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman. On Tuesday morning, he walked through Pilger to take in the damage, trailed by reporters.

Heineman declared a state of emergency, which dispatched the National Guard to help with cleanup. A shelter was set up in a nearby town for displaced residents.

Seeing Double

The twin twisters were about equal in size and a mile apart. They were part of a larger system that hit the central part of the U.S. on Monday. The pair roared for miles through northeast Nebraska before eventually uniting.

Nebraska State Climatologist Al Dutcher says the size and intensity of the dual tornadoes were rare. Usually, one tornado weakens and shrinks. But the twisters were strengthened by a lack of thunderstorms in the area. Thunderstorms compete with tornadoes for wind and moisture in the atmosphere.

"It speaks wonders about the amount of instability that was in the atmosphere," Dutcher told the Associated Press. "This was a highly [unpredictable] situation where once something got going, it really got going."

Tornadoes have continued to sweep the plains after Monday's storm. The National Weather Service received reports of tornadoes across five states on Tuesday. At least two large twisters formed in Nebraska. One slow-moving twister touched down about 45 miles from Pilger, according to weather.com.

In Pilger, the cleanup effort from Monday's storm damage will be massive. Still, Governor Heineman says he is confident the community will rebuild.

Keeping Schools Healthy

The White House sets new limits on advertisements for unhealthy snacks and drinks in schools

FEB 25, 2014 | By Denver Nicks & David Winograd for TIME, with AP reporting



MANDEL NGAN—AFP/GETTY IMAGES

U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama makes an announcement about new school wellness standards.

On Tuesday, the White House and the U.S. Department of Agriculture laid out new limits for promoting junk food and sugary drinks in schools. The rules ban advertisements for unhealthy foods on school grounds during the school day. The ad ban includes sugary drinks that account for more than 90 percent of unhealthy ads in school. An ad for regular Coca-Cola, for example, would be banned from a scoreboard at a high school football game. But, ads for Diet Coke and Dasani water, owned by the same company, would be allowed.

The new rules are part of the first lady's "Let's Move" campaign to fight childhood obesity. Her goal is to get kids to eat healthier—like the new rules that require healthier cafeteria food. The

marketing limits come after new USDA regulations that put a limit on the calorie, fat, sugar, and sodium in most school food items. The healthier food rules are criticized by people who think the government should not control what kids eat and by some students who don't like the healthier foods.

“The idea here is simple—our classrooms should be healthy places,” First Lady Michelle Obama said in a statement. “Because when parents are working hard to teach their kids healthy habits at home, their work shouldn’t be undone by unhealthy messages at school.”

A Healthy Message

According to the USDA, companies are spending \$149 million a year on marketing to kids in schools. But, the big industry giants like Coca-Cola and PepsiCo are supporting the new rules. Many have already started to advertise their own healthier products. For schools, junk food ads like a Coca-Cola scoreboard could be taken down over time—not replaced overnight. The next time the school needed to replace its scoreboard, it would have to get one with a healthier message.

“The new standards ensure that schools remain a safe place where kids can learn and where the school environment promotes healthy choices,” Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsak said in a statement.

The new USDA plans announced today also aim to help feed hungry kids in need. They would allow the highest-poverty schools to serve breakfast and lunch to all students for free. The White House says that will help feed about 9 million kids in 22,000 schools. The rules will help guide schools on ways to create standards for foods and physical activity. They would require parents and the community to be involved in those decisions.

Good News

Obesity rates among toddlers in the U.S. have dropped greatly over the last 10 years. According to a survey done by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), there has been a 43 percent decrease. The obesity rate for American children in the two to five-year-old age group dropped from 14 percent in 2003-2004 to just above 8 percent in 2011-12.

“This confirms that at least for kids, we can turn the tide and begin to reverse the obesity epidemic,” said CDC Director Tom Frieden.

The exact reasons for the drop in obesity are unknown. But, the CDC mentions less sugary drinks and better nutrition and physical education programs at day care centers as possible causes.

First Lady Michelle Obama responded to the CDC report saying she was “thrilled at the progress we’ve made over the last few years in obesity rates among our youngest Americans.”



Get Your Healthy Lunches!

New research shows that kids who pre-order lunch make healthier choices

May 08, 2013 | By Alexandra Sifferlin for TIME with additional AP reporting

JAMIE GRILL—GETTY IMAGES

A new study shows that children who electronically pre-order their lunch are more likely to make healthier meal choices than students who pick and choose as they go through the cafeteria line.

For the study, which was published in the journal *JAMA Pediatrics*, researchers from Cornell University looked at the choices made by 272 students from two schools in New York. The four-week study focused on students in grades 1 through 5. When the students pre-ordered their lunches, 29% were more likely to pick a healthier main course, compared to 15% when there was no pre-order option.

Researchers say that pre-ordering lunch can help prevent distractions like sights and smells from influencing kids' decisions and leading them to make unhealthy meal choices.

Jessica Donze Black, project director for The Pew Charitable Trusts Kids' Safe and Healthful Foods Project, says the overall food environment makes a big difference in the choices students make.

“It is not just what is in the meals, but what’s in the rest of the school food environment,” she says. “What’s in the vending machine, what’s in the school’s store. It’s important all those foods are also healthy.”

Ongoing Changes

In January 2012 the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) revised school meal guidelines and required more fruits and vegetables, whole grains and stricter calorie limits.

The new guidelines were met with mixed reviews. Some children complained that the calorie limits didn't fill them up. In response, the USDA allowed the schools more freedom in determining meat and grain servings. But there's still debate about the restrictions.

Black says some of the most successful changes in lunchroom eating habits have been in schools that include students in the menu decision-making process. "Giving children an opportunity to taste-test allows them to provide feedback and an opportunity to show their preferences," she says.

Vegetarian Lunches

LALITA KOVVURI—NYC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.S. 244's all-vegetarian menu includes ziti, chick peas, zucchini and fruit.

On April 30, Public School 244 in Queens, New York, became one of the first schools in the nation to adopt an all-vegetarian menu. It has been serving items like tofu wraps and vegetarian chili since going all-veggie earlier this year.

P.S. 244 has just over 400 students in pre-kindergarten through third grade. The school, which wanted to offer the children healthy food options, started serving a vegetarian lunch three times a week. Later in the year, they increased it to four times a week before making the switch to an all-vegetarian menu every day.

"We discovered early on that our kids were gravitating toward our vegetarian offerings," principal Robert Groff said. "And we kept expanding the program to meet the demand."

As researchers continue to pinpoint the most successful strategies for healthier students—and schools continue to introduce them—there's hope that children's weight and energy will reach healthy levels now and in the future.



Save the Polar Bear

TIME looks at the plight of one of Earth's most charismatic creatures

FEB 27, 2014 | **By Bryan Walsh for TIME**



ERIC GILLESPIE—GOOGLE

A polar bear in the Churchill Wildlife Management Area in Canada looks up in this photo by a Google photographer.

It's International Polar Bear Day today, so if you live near the Arctic Circle, hug the closest polar bear. Actually, do not do that—an adult male polar bear is nearly half a ton of hungry predator, and they are extremely dangerous. Still, the beasts deserve a little tenderness.



ERIC GILLESPIE—GOOGLE

A polar bear leans on a Tundra Buggy that is carrying the Google Street View Trekker.

The polar bear is now considered a vulnerable species, under threat from the loss of its sea ice habitat. To draw attention to their plight, Google is now offering glimpses of polar bears in their native environment, via its Street View program. Cameras in Cape Churchill and Wapusk National Park in northern Manitoba, Canada, **captured images of polar bears** doing their polar bear thing during an annual gathering in the region in October and November. You can see pictures of polar bears sparring, and a mother nursing her cub, all against the flat white and brown background of the Arctic. The footage was taken with Google's Street View Trekker—15 cameras mounted on a backpack—from aboard the off-road vehicles known as tundra buggies.

Krista Wright is executive director of the conservation group Polar Bear International. She spoke to the CBC, a Canadian broadcaster, about Google's program. "It provides an opportunity to document what it looks like now, the potential to document what it looks like next year, five years from now, 10 years from now," she said.

Disappearing Sea Ice

Many scientists and conservationists fear that there may be far fewer polar bears in even the next 10 years, thanks mostly to the effects of climate change. Polar bears use sea ice as a platform to reach their prey—mainly seals—and summer sea ice is melting

fast. Despite a rebound from a record low in 2012, the extent of Arctic sea ice is generally trending downwards, often dramatically. As the ice vanishes, polar bears are forced to swim longer and longer distances to reach those hunting platforms, which is taking a toll on the species.

Exactly how vulnerable polar bears are is not clear, partially due to the fact that they live in such a forbidding climate to humans and that polar bears are not exactly friendly. That makes getting a proper count challenging. But Google is helping with this as well: researchers are using Google Earth satellite images to count polar bears from space.

Still, most experts agree that there are about 20,000 to 25,000 polar bears alive, scattered around the Arctic—a perilously small number—though some subpopulations have rebounded, in part because of restrictions on hunting. There's also evidence that polar bears are changing their dietary habits, possibly to adapt to the loss of sea ice. They are shifting from seals to snow geese, caribou, and berries. But polar bear subpopulations are still trending downward in many areas of the Arctic, and if climate change keeps vaporizing sea ice, the pressure on the bears will only increase.

Of course, that's true of many, many species; in fact, a new study in the journal *Nature Climate Change* just found that global warming dramatically increases the risk of extinction for amphibians and reptiles. Yet how many other species are so popular that Coca-Cola will change the color of its cans just to draw attention to their plight, as the company did for polar bears in 2011? Last year a policy paper in *Conservation Letters* laid out an ambitious plan to save polar bears in the face of global warming, even going so far as to suggest feeding starving bears directly—an amazing thought, given the obvious risks. Why go to

such great lengths to save the polar bear, and not, say Mexico's critically endangered pygmy raccoon?

The truth is there's no perfect reason. But as seen in Google Street View and those candid shots of polar bears in their element, there is something majestic about a polar bear against the backdrop of the Arctic, something wild and worth saving. And the polar bear dearly needs saving.

Goodbye, Bamboo

Endangered giant pandas are facing a new threat: the loss of their food source, bamboo.

JAN 11, 2013 | By Kelli Plasket



BURRAND-LUCAS/BARCROFT MEDIA/LANDOV

A giant panda feeds on bamboo in China's Qinling Mountains. The bears get water and nutrients from the plant.

In China's Qinling Mountains, giant pandas spend most of their day eating bamboo. The plant makes up 99% of the bears' diet, with some pandas eating about 40 pounds of it a day. But Qinling's pandas may soon have to find another food source. A new study published in the science journal *Nature Climate Change* reports that warming temperatures may cause the loss of most of the region's bamboo by the end of the century.

A team made up of researchers from Michigan State University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences used climate models to project the effects of climate change on the region's three main bamboo species. They studied the impact of rising temperatures on the spread and growth of bamboo. Bamboo is sensitive to

temperature changes. "Even with a 3.6° Fahrenheit increase in temperature, we found that 80% to 100% of bamboo would be gone by the end of the century," Jianguo Liu, one of the study's authors, told TFK.

Protecting Pandas

The Qinling Mountains, located in eastern China, are home to about 270 pandas. That is about 17% of the world's wild panda population. The bear is one of the world's most endangered species.

In recent years, China has stepped up efforts to protect pandas from deforestation and poaching. But Liu says the country has yet to consider the long-term effects of climate change in its conservation planning. Aside from increasing nature reserve areas where pandas are protected, Liu wants China to lower its use of fuels that release greenhouse gases—as should the rest of the world. "The future of pandas," he says, "is in our hands."

She's Back!

The Statue of Liberty reopens eight months after Superstorm Sandy

July 05, 2013

By Stephanie Kraus



AZGAR DONMAZ—GETTY IMAGES

The Statue of Liberty is a national monument. It stands on Liberty Island, in New York Harbor.

Dressed in a robe and sandals, Lady Liberty braved strong winds, crashing waves, and heavy rain from Superstorm Sandy last October. The world-famous statue survived the storm—but its home on Liberty Island did not fare as well. The island had been closed since the storm. But on July 4, the Statue of Liberty finally reopened to visitors.



NPS/REUTERS

Superstorm Sandy caused more than \$59 million worth of damages to Liberty Island in October.

Sandy made landfall one day after the statue's 126th birthday. The storm flooded most of the 12-acre island in New York Harbor. Floodwaters damaged the visitor center, walkways, and electrical systems. In some areas, water surged as high as 8 feet. The storm caused more than \$59 million worth of damages to the island. But the Statue of Liberty itself was unharmed, since it stands on a high pedestal.

Over the past eight months, the National Park Service (NPS) has worked to clean up and repair the damages. More than 1,000 employees from all over the country helped with the repairs. Through their efforts, Lady Liberty was made ready for visitors again. While some repairs to brick walkways and docks are still underway, visitors arrived by ferry boats to tour the national landmark on Independence Day.

“It’s a perfect day to reopen the statue,” NPS spokesman John Warren told TFK. “It’s a great day to celebrate liberty throughout the country and the world.”

Her History

French sculptor Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi designed the Statue of Liberty. He called it Liberty Enlightening the World. The statue was a gift of friendship from France to the U.S. It arrived in New York Harbor in 1885. Even with help from other workers, it took Bartholdi nine years to build the 225-ton monument, which stands about 305 feet tall. In the statue’s left hand, Lady Liberty holds a tablet with the date July 4, 1776—the day America declared its independence from Britain.

“The Statue of Liberty has inspired people all over the world because it stands for freedom,” Warren says. “It’s a beacon to the world.”

From 1892 to 1954, more than 12 million immigrants entered the U.S. through nearby Ellis Island. The Ellis Island Immigration Museum holds the history of immigrants who passed through the island as they sought a new life in the U.S. During the superstorm, all historical items were kept safe. Ellis Island and the museum are not expected to reopen to the public this year.



A Grand Reopening

The Washington Monument welcomes back visitors after 33 months of repair

MAY 12, 2014 | By TFK Staff



KEVIN LAMARQUE—REUTERS

Visitors wait in line for the reopening of the Washington Monument on May 12, 2014.

Ever since it was completed, in 1885, the Washington Monument has been a favorite stop for visitors to Washington, D.C. But in 2011, a 5.8 magnitude earthquake rocked the area. Parts of the stone tower were cracked and broken. For safety reasons, the monument was closed to visitors.

Complex repairs had to be made to the monument. Workers were on the job for 33 months. "We can't wait for visitors to come back to the monument," National Park Service spokesman Brian Hall told TFK. Now that the work is finally finished, that time has come. Starting today, May 12, people will be able to visit the Washington Monument once again. Visitors lined up in the early morning

hours to get tickets to enter the monument. Though the tickets are free, they are necessary to control crowds.



PETE MAROVICH—GETTY IMAGES

An observation window at the top of the monument looks down on the Jefferson Memorial.

A Tricky Fix

After the earthquake, engineers checked each stone in the 550-foot-tall monument, and found more than 150 cracks. The worst damage was at the very top, where the monument shook the most during the earthquake.

Repair work started at the top of the structure and moved downward. But first, a 500-ton framework of metal and wood had to be built around it for workers to climb on. Workers replaced stones and sealed cracks inside and outside the building. The repairs cost \$15 million. Philanthropist David Rubenstein donated \$7.5 million of the total repair cost. “[The monument] symbolizes many things for our country – the freedoms, patriotism, George Washington, leadership,” Rubenstein told the Associated Press. “So it’s been moving to see how many people are affected by it.”

High in the Sky

The Washington Monument is the tallest building in our nation's capital. Inside the monument, visitors can ride an elevator to the top. There is an observation area with windows that look down on

the city. "It's an amazing experience to be able to see all of D.C. from one location," Hall said. "It's the best view in town."

The monument is also a National Historic Landmark, meaning it is a structure officially honored by the American government for its important role in our nation's heritage.

The monument's home, the National Mall, is a large park with museums, statues, monuments, and gardens. Some of the monuments were built in memory of U.S. presidents. Others honor the men and women who served in our nation's armed forces. Museums on the Mall include the National Museum of the American Indian and the National Air and Space Museum, all telling different parts of American history.

Achievement First
Textual Analysis: Level E #72

Name _____

Teacher _____

Directions

In this lesson, you are going to read a story called “Avalanche!” and an article called “How to Be Safe in Ice and Snow.” You will answer questions and write about what you have read. You may look back at the passages as often as you like.

Avalanche!

By Lynda La Rocca • Illustrated by Ken Stetz


1. “Look out!” I shouted. “An avalanche!”
2. Dad turned as the huge wall of snow roared down the mountainside—straight at him. “Run!” he screamed.



3. My little brother, Kevin, and his friend Alan skied safely out of the path of the avalanche on their cross-country skis. But Dad and I were wearing snowshoes. We couldn’t move as quickly.
4. When the snow started sliding, I turned awkwardly and tried to run in my clumsy snowshoes. The next thing I knew, I felt as if I’d slammed into a brick wall. Snow covered me, filling my mouth and eyes. Gasping and coughing, I “swam” with the slide, keeping both arms in front of me, trying desperately to stay on top of the billowing mass of snow.

5. As suddenly as it began, the avalanche was over. I was trapped up to my neck in cold, hard snow. I couldn’t move.
6. Kevin and Alan hurried to me. “Dad’s gone,” Kevin sobbed. I saw him get buried.”
7. “He’s not gone. Dig me out and we’ll find him.” I hoped I sounded calmer than I felt.
8. Kevin and Alan unhooked the small shovels we carried for emergencies like this. Avalanches are common in the rugged, high mountains of Colorado. Whenever we hike or ski into the mountains in the winter, we always come prepared.
9. “Hurry!” I urged. “There’s not much time!”
10. They worked hard, and soon I was free. My snowshoes were still on my feet. The back country was still beautiful. The snow sparkled in the sun—but now Dad was buried beneath it.
11. I was afraid there might be another avalanche, so I told Kevin and Alan to wait while I staggered up the mound of fallen snow.
12. I got out my avalanche beacon. That’s a special safety device carried by back-country skiers and snowshoers. Dad was wearing one, too. The beacon is like a little radio, with its own transmitter and receiver. The beacon transmits a steady *beep, beep* signal. The louder the beeps are, the closer the rescuer is to the person buried under the snow.

Achievement First Textual Analysis: Level E #72

13. I turned on my receiver and scanned the surface quickly but carefully. Every second was important. Without air, Dad would suffocate. When I heard a faint *beep*, I moved toward the signal. My receiver showed I was getting closer.
14. “Here!” I shouted, dropping down and digging frantically with my hands. Kevin and Alan joined in with their shovels. Under more than a foot of snow, we uncovered the top of Dad’s head.
15. Dad had been buried at least fifteen minutes.
16. “Quick—uncover his face!” I cried. We clawed at the snow.
17. Dad’s eyes were closed. His gloved hand was cupped in front of his mouth and nose. That created an air pocket. But was it enough air?
18. “Dad!” I slapped his cheeks gently. “Wake up! Please!”
19. Dad’s eyelids fluttered. He was alive!
20. “Chris,” he murmured. “You’re safe. Where are the others?”
21. “Here, Dad,” Kevin said. “We’re going to get you out.”
22. And we did. Dad didn’t seem hurt, but he was very cold and weak. His snowshoes were gone, so he couldn’t walk in the deep snow. I used my snowshoes to make a trail. Kevin, Alan, and Dad followed. We struggled to the shelter of some pine trees.
23. Kevin and I made a smoky fire with pieces of damp wood. Dad needed the fire to warm up. His teeth were chattering, and he was shivering. We also hoped someone would see the smoke and rescue us. But after a few minutes, I knew we couldn’t afford to wait to be rescued.
24. “Kevin, Alan, huddle close to Dad so he stays warm, OK?” I said. “And keep the fire burning. I’m going for help.”
25. “Y-y-you c-c-can’t go alone,” Dad protested.
26. “I have to,” I replied. “You have hypothermia.” That’s when the body temperature drops dangerously low. It’s very serious. People can die from it. “I’ll follow the trail we made coming in. I’ll be all right.” I had to be.
27. I’d trudged through the snow for almost a mile when I heard the drone of snowmobiles. “Here! Over here!” I yelled. “Help!”
28. Three snowmobiles came into view.
29. “My dad was caught in an avalanche. We dug him out, but he’s cold and too tired to walk,” I reported breathlessly.
30. “Hop on,” one driver said. We sped to our campsite.
31. The snowmobilers turned out to be members of a search-and-rescue squad. They’re trained to help people who are stranded, injured, or lost in the mountains.
- 
32. “How did you know we needed you?” I asked as they bundled Dad into blankets.
33. “Two people were skiing the ridge above you,” a squad member explained. “Their weight probably triggered the avalanche. They saw your dad get swept away, and they went for help.”

Achievement First
Textual Analysis: Level E #72

34. “Did they see Chris get buried, too?” Kevin asked.
35. “You were buried?” Dad asked quietly.
36. “Up to my neck,” I said.
37. “We rescued Chris,” Kevin explained.
38. “Yeah,” Alan echoed. “And then Chris found you.”
39. A squad member patted my back. “Nice work.”
40. “Thank you,” Dad whispered, nodding at me.
41. As the snowmobiles headed down the mountain, I glanced back at the gigantic snowslide. I knew that from now on, I’d look at the snowy mountains with a lot more respect. I’d be extra careful, but I’d also be more confident—thanks to our lesson on the mountain.

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Achievement First
Textual Analysis: Level E #72

1. The chart below lists two of Chris’s character traits. Complete the chart by writing details from the story that show how Chris is calm and courageous.

Avalanche!

Chris’s Character Trait	Supporting details from the article
Calm	
Courageous	

2. How is Dad’s problem in the story resolved? Use details from the story to explain your answer.

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HOW TO BE SAFE IN ICE AND SNOW

1. Your dream finally came true. It was announced on the radio **and** on TV. It's a snow day! School's closed for the whole day, and that means it's time for one thing: going outside to have fun in the snow.
2. Winter is a really fun time of year - it's great to have snowball fights, build snowmen, and construct igloos. But while you're out having fun, you have to know how to be safe. When it's cold outside and you're not prepared, you can feel uncomfortable or even downright rotten. But lucky for you, learning how to stay safe is a breeze!

LOVE THOSE LAYERS

3. Dressing in layers is the best way to stay warm and toasty in the cold, because you can start out with lots of clothes to keep you warm and then peel them off once you start to heat up. Depending on where you live and how cold it is, some kids may need more layers, some less. But if you're in doubt, go for more layers to start - they can always come off later. (Whatever you do, always leave your coat on - that's one layer that should stay!)

GRAB THAT HAT

4. You're all bundled up and ready to go, but are you forgetting something? Pull a hat onto your head! You'll stay much warmer with a hat than without one - tons of body heat escapes right from your head. Scarves, face masks, and earmuffs are also great at covering you up so you'll stay comfortable longer. And don't forget mittens or gloves - the waterproof kind are best if you know you'll be playing around a lot in the snow. Keeping your hands warm

and dry is important because fingers are sensitive to the cold.

TAKE IT EASY

5. Sometimes if you're out having fun, it's easy to forget to pay attention to your body. But if your body temperature drops even 4 or 5 degrees while you're outside, it can make you feel crummy. That's why you need to be alert to your body's signals. If you're starting to shiver or your teeth are chattering, it's a message from your body that you need to head inside. And if you ever feel dizzy or weak, those are sure signs that you have to take it easy indoors for a while.

FIGHT THAT BITE

6. If you're outside on a very cold day and you're not wearing enough protective clothing, you could be in danger of getting **frostbite**. Frostbite is when the body's tissues freeze, and it usually happens to skin that is exposed (like your face or your ears) or to parts of the body like your fingers or toes. If you're ever outside and you can't feel your fingers, toes, cheeks, ears, or nose, it may be a sign of frostbite.
7. If you think even for a second that you might have frostbite, go indoors and **tell an adult right away**. In the meantime, wiggle the part as much as you can - this will make more blood go to the area. If it's possible, hold the part against another area of your body that's warm - like holding your fingers on your stomach, for example. Finally, if you ever think you have frostbite, **never** stick the frostbitten part in hot water or hold something hot against it.

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3. According to the article, what are two ways you can keep yourself safe in the ice and snow? Use details from the article to support your answer.

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Planning Page

You may plan your writing for question 4 here if you wish, but do **NOT** write your final answer on this page. Your writing on this Planning Page will **NOT** count toward your final score. Write your final answer on the next two pages.

Go On

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4.

Think about Chris and his family in “Avalanche!” Explain how the information in the article “How to Be Safe in Ice and Snow” would be helpful to Chris and his family. Then describe the things Chris and his family did to stay safe during the avalanche. Use details from **both** “Avalanche!” and “How to Be Safe in Ice and Snow” to support your answer.

In your answer, be sure to

- explain how the information in the article would be helpful to Chris and his family
- explain what things Chris and his family did to stay safe during the avalanche
- use details from **both** the story and the article to support your answer

Check your writing for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Go On

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STOP