Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**AoW #1-5 Strangers Become Saviors**

**Read** and **thoroughly connect to the entire** article by generating connections, questions, inferences, and visuals in the margin.

* **Answer** the **4 questions**.
* **Complete the GIST activity.**
* **Write** a **two paragraph reflection** following the following guidelines:

**First paragraph** – Objective summary

**Second paragraph** – Connect the article to our unit

***Check for spelling and grammar!***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Requirement** | **Points** | **Student Evaluation** | **Teacher Evaluation** |
| I have provided a **variety of thoughtful annotations** for the entire article. | 20 |  |  |
| I have answered the **4 comprehension questions** using textual evidence if applicable. | 20 |  |  |
| My **first paragraph is an objective summary**. It is evident that I followed the 6 steps for writing an objective summary. | 25 |  |  |
| My **second paragraph connects the article to our EitO unit**. I cited specific evidence from the text that I feel relates to our unit. | 25 |  |  |
| I have **minimal grammatical and spelling mistakes**. | 5 |  |  |
| **Gist** of article | **5** |  |  |
| Total |  |  |  |

# 

# Strangers become saviors: As floods rise, Texans rise to the occasion

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff

The family from Pasadena, Texas, shuddered as choppy floodwaters from Hurricane Harvey poured into their apartment's parking lot. Cars bobbed like fish in a pond.

Fearing for their two small children, the family packed a garbage bag of clothes and fled to a shelter at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

## Converted Firehouse Still Saving Folks

They huddled in a corner, dazed and scared, until two strangers offered to help.

Anne Whitlock and Michael Skelly had been ferrying hurricane victims to the shelter from a nearby hospital. They knew the convention center was filling rapidly, and they were certain their home, a 110-year-old converted firehouse in Houston's East End, would be safe from the rising waters.

So they brought home the family - a woman who had immigrated from Mexico, her two daughters, her brother and a family friend - and Skelly posted a message on Facebook urging others to take people in. And so began a chain of help, one Houston family assisting another, as the nation's fourth-largest city contends with the impact of a devastating storm.

"There's no way that the city can come up with shelter for all those people," said Skelly, a 55-year-old wind energy executive. "All across the city, people are offering up their homes . . . bringing their friends, or friends of friends of friends."

## Surprise: "You've Got Two Visitors"

One of Skelly's co-workers saw his post and promptly decided to take in a father from Iraq and his four children. Then Skelly and Whitlock's son Oscar, 23, called. He'd been making another run from the hospital and discovered that a disabled woman and her elderly mother were going to have to wait outside in the rain in the convention center shelter line.

Whitlock told her son to bring the two women to the firehouse to eat and relax. She arranged for them to sleep in a nearby home that she and her husband own and rent to Tom McCasland. McCasland happens to be Houston's director of housing and community development.

"I tagged him on Facebook saying, 'Hey you don't even know about this, Tom, but you've got two visitors,' " said Whitlock, 56, who runs a nonprofit that seeks to reinvigorate neighborhoods without pushing out longtime residents.

## "I'm Just So Incredibly Grateful"

Becky Bain, 58, and her mother Miriam, 82, said they were grateful for a quiet place to stay after fleeing rising floodwaters in a dump truck.

"We've already folded the laundry that was in his dryer and cleaned up a little," Bain said. "He's got a beautiful home and I'm just so incredibly grateful."

Whitlock and Skelly are known in Houston as a risk-taking power couple devoted to public service. They met in 1988 after both served in the Peace Corps, a volunteer group that helps people in need. They married, had three children and bounced around different countries and states before settling in Houston. Skelly made a small fortune at a wind energy company he helped start.

The couple moved in 2015 from a wealthy neighborhood to the old firehouse, located in a poorer part of the city where many immigrants live.

## "They Opened Their Doors To Us"

And, since heavy rains and winds began pummeling their city, they take in strangers.

"We opened our doors ... and they opened their doors to us," said Rafael, a 33-year-old factory worker who is part of the family that Skelly and Whitlock brought home from the shelter. He asked that his last name not be used because he is in the United States illegally. His two nieces, a six-month-old and a three-year-old, were born in the United States.

Air mattresses were pulled from the attic so everyone had a place to sleep. The evacuated adults pitched in to cook meals and walk Whitlock and Skelly's dog. The owner of a nearby restaurant, which had closed because of the storm, got wind of the couple's efforts and donated tortillas, chorizo and other foods.

## Memories Of Hurricane Katrina

Skelly and Whitlock said they were inspired by former Houston Mayor Bill White, who led the city when Hurricane Katrina slammed into Louisiana 12 years ago. Thousands were homeless and many cities did not want them. But Houston did - and now thousands of Katrina refugees call the city their home.

"Everybody is pressed into service in some way," Whitlock said. "That's pretty much the story across the city."

Stories of goodwill could be found throughout the region. Approximately 10,000 people filled the convention center shelter and city and county officials opened additional enormous buildings to house more evacuees.

Abbey Kaler, her husband and their newborn left their home in west Houston before the storm to stay with her parents in the suburb of Kingwood. When that area flooded Tuesday morning, she sent a Facebook plea asking if anyone could take in her family, her parents and their four dogs.

## Calling In The "Heights Heroes"

A friend rescued them in a blow-up raft, after Kaler wrapped three-week-old Emily in a bedsheet and duct-taped her to her body for safety. They ended up in the home of longtime family friends who were out of town.

Neighbors "brought diapers and wipes for Emily . . . formula, bottles," Kahler said. "I've never even met these people."

In the Heights neighborhood, north of Rice University, John Hoye, age 41, turned his attention to an effort he was calling "Heights Heroes." Hoye began organizing squads of volunteers to salvage belongings and make repairs at flooded homes.

"It's a chain reaction where people are like, 'let's get it done!' " he said. "It's about having some good memories. You're never going to forget rebuilding your life."

**QUESTIONS**

1. The CENTRAL idea of the article is developed by:

A Illustrating that people are stranded after the storm because Houston's shelters have insufficient space and supplies

B Providing evidence that even more people need help after Hurricane Harvey than after Hurricane Katrina

C Highlighting the areas of Houston where the most residents have been displaced by the storm

D Describing examples of how people are offering kindness and assistance to one another in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey

2. Which of the following details is MOST important to the development of the article's CENTRAL idea?

A. The family from Pasadena, Texas, shuddered as choppy floodwaters from Hurricane Harvey poured into their apartment's parking lot.

B. So they brought home the family — a woman who had immigrated from Mexico, her two daughters, her brother and a family friend — and Skelly posted a message on Facebook urging others to take people in.

C. "There's no way that the city can come up with shelter for all those people," said Skelly, a 55-year-old wind energy executive.

D. He'd been making another run from the hospital and discovered that a disabled woman and her elderly mother were going to have to wait outside in the rain in the convention center shelter line.

3. Which of the following BEST describes the OVERALL tone of the article? Which sentence supports your answer?

A. Sympathetic; Fearing for their two small children, the family packed a garbage bag of clothes and fled to a shelter at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

B. Academic; They met in 1988 after both served in the Peace Corps, a volunteer group that helps people in need.

C. Hopeful; Stories of goodwill could be found throughout the region.

D. Dramatic: A friend rescued them in a blow-up raft, after Kaler wrapped three-week-old Emily in a bedsheet and duct-taped her to her body for safety.

4. What does the the phrase "pressed into" convey in the following selection from the section "Memories Of Hurricane Katrina"?

*"Everybody is pressed into service in some way," Whitlock said. "That's pretty much the story across the city."*

A. Without inspiring examples to follow, people would be unlikely to help others in need.

B. Due to difficult circumstances, people are recognizing they need to help one another.

C. Most people begin to offer assistance only after others pressure them enough.

D. The people who help others the most are those who are in the most need.

**Get the GIST**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Source \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Read the article or section of text.
2. Fill in the 5 Ws and H.

Who:

What:

When:

Where:

Why:

How:

3. Write a 20-word GIST summary.

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