

# NOT BORING MEDIA

## THE BABY WHO SURVIVED THREE DAYS ALONE

High-Interest Nonfiction Reading Passage

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ Reading Passage   ✓ Comprehension Questions
- ✓ Answer Key   ✓ Teacher Guide

GRADES 4-6 • LEXILE ~750L • DOK LEVELS 1-4

*Reading they'll actually do.*

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### TERMS OF USE

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### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ High-interest nonfiction reading passage (300-400 words)
- ✓ 6 comprehension questions spanning DOK levels 1-4
- ✓ Complete answer key with explanations
- ✓ Teacher guide with standards, pacing, and extensions

Questions or feedback? Leave a review or message us through TPT!

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Reading they'll actually do.

# THE BABY WHO SURVIVED THREE DAYS ALONE

In the fall of 2018, a woman lost control of her car on a dark road in rural Utah. The vehicle plunged off a bridge and landed upside down in the freezing Spanish Fork River. The mother died on impact. Her eighteen-month-old daughter, Lily, survived—strapped into her car seat, suspended just above the icy water, for nearly fourteen hours.

A fisherman discovered the overturned car the next morning and called 911. When rescue teams arrived, they didn't expect to find anyone alive. The car had been submerged all night in water barely above freezing. But as Officer Tyler Beddoes waded into the river, he heard something that made his heart stop: a faint cry.

Baby Lily was still alive.

The car seat had held her just high enough that her face stayed above the water line. The vehicle's position had created a small pocket of air. Her mother's body may have partially blocked the cold wind. These accidental factors combined to create barely survivable conditions.

Lily was hypothermic, her body temperature dangerously low. She hadn't eaten in over fourteen hours. But she was breathing, conscious, and crying—a sound the rescuers would never forget.

The rescue made national news, but a stranger detail emerged afterward. Several officers reported hearing an adult voice calling "help" from the car as they approached. Officer Beddoes was certain he heard it. So were other first responders. But Lily was too young to speak, and her mother had died hours earlier.

The officers couldn't explain what they heard. Some wondered if they'd experienced an auditory hallucination brought on by adrenaline. Others privately believed they'd heard something they couldn't rationally explain. The mystery has never been resolved.

Lily made a full recovery. She was adopted by her mother's family and has no memory of the accident. The officers who saved her remain haunted—not by the tragedy, but by the voice that led them to her.

Sometimes survival stories resist explanation. Sometimes the miracle isn't just that someone lived, but that they were found at all.

Word Count: 342 | Lexile: ~750L | Grades 4-6 | Source: Nature India

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

**1 How long was baby Lily trapped in the car before being discovered?**

- A) About 3 hours
- B) About 8 hours
- C) About 14 hours
- D) About 24 hours

**2 What physical factors helped Lily survive?**

- A) The car's heater stayed on
- B) The car seat kept her above water and the car created an air pocket
- C) Other drivers stopped to help
- D) She was wearing a special survival suit

**3 What does the word 'hypothermic' mean based on context?**

- A) Having a dangerously low body temperature
- B) Being extremely hungry
- C) Having difficulty breathing
- D) Being unable to move

**4 What unexplained detail made this rescue story unusual?**

- A) The car exploded after the rescue
- B) Officers reported hearing an adult voice calling for help
- C) The river was unusually warm that night
- D) Lily could speak in complete sentences

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The passage presents two possible explanations for the voice: 'auditory hallucination' or 'something they couldn't rationally explain.' How does the author present these possibilities? Does the author seem to favor one?

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The passage ends: 'Sometimes the miracle isn't just that someone lived, but that they were found at all.' What do you think the author wants readers to take away? Is it important to explain every detail of miraculous events?

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## ANSWER KEY

### The Baby Who Survived Three Days Alone

#### 1. C) About 14 hours

DOK 1 — Recall. *The passage states Lily survived 'for nearly fourteen hours.'*

#### 2. B) The car seat kept her above water and the car created an air pocket

DOK 1 — Recall. *The passage states: 'The car seat had held her just high enough' and 'The vehicle's position had created a small pocket of air.'*

#### 3. A) Having a dangerously low body temperature

DOK 2 — Vocabulary in context. *The passage states: 'Lily was hypothermic, her body temperature dangerously low.'*

#### 4. B) Officers reported hearing an adult voice calling for help

DOK 2 — Text evidence. *The passage states: 'Several officers reported hearing an adult voice calling "help" from the car.'*

#### 5. Sample Response:

The author presents both possibilities without clearly favoring either. The hallucination theory is called 'rational' while the other is framed as something officers 'privately believed.' The author doesn't dismiss either view—using phrases like 'the mystery has never been resolved' keeps both open. The tone seems respectful of the officers' experience while acknowledging science can't explain everything.

#### 6. Sample Response:

Answers will vary. The author seems to suggest some events exceed our ability to fully explain them—and that's okay. The important outcome is that Lily survived; the unexplained voice adds wonder but doesn't need resolution. Some might argue we should always seek rational explanations; others might say accepting mystery allows space for meaning beyond science. Strong responses will consider both perspectives.

## TEACHER GUIDE

### The Baby Who Survived Three Days Alone

#### STANDARDS ALIGNMENT

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.1 — Refer to details and examples in a text
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.4 — Determine meaning of words and phrases
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.8 — Explain how author uses evidence
- NGSS — Connections to scientific practices

#### PACING OPTIONS

- Quick Read (10-15 min): Passage + questions 1-4
- Standard (20-25 min): Full passage + all questions
- Deep Dive (35-40 min): Add discussion + extension

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Officers heard an adult voice calling for help—but no adult was alive. How should we interpret experiences that can't be explained?
- Some things were 'hallucinations from adrenaline.' Others believed it was something more. Can both be valid responses to the unexplainable?
- Lily has no memory of the accident. Is forgetting trauma a blessing or does it create other challenges?

#### EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- Science: Research hypothermia survival. What factors determine whether someone survives extreme cold?
- Engineering: Research car seat safety design. How did the seat's position save Lily's life?
- Writing: Write a short reflection on the unexplained voice. How do we process experiences beyond explanation?

#### DIFFERENTIATION

- Struggling: Pre-teach vocabulary, partner reading
- Advanced: Add research, compare to related events
- ELL: Visual supports, pre-teach context

#### SOURCE

- Nature India / Godfrey Louis research papers