

LEVELED BOOK • J

# My Uncle Is a Firefighter



Written by Tillie Douglas

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Uncle Jason

Tillie

My name is Tillie, and my uncle is a **firefighter**. Today I get to visit him at the fire station.



I shake hands with Captain Chuck Williams. He's been a firefighter for 31 years!

Uncle Jason gives me a **tour**. Just like my house, the fire station has a kitchen, but different people use it on different days. That's because firefighters work long **shifts**. They're on one day, then off two.



Next stop on the tour is Uncle Jason's bedroom. It has a television, couch, and bed. After sleeping, Uncle Jason puts fresh sheets on the bed for the next firefighter.





Next, Uncle Jason shows me the day room. This is where the firefighters hang out after chores are done.

The most exciting part of the fire station is the **garage**. Two fire trucks are waiting, ready to go.



Uncle Jason lets me try out the headphones.





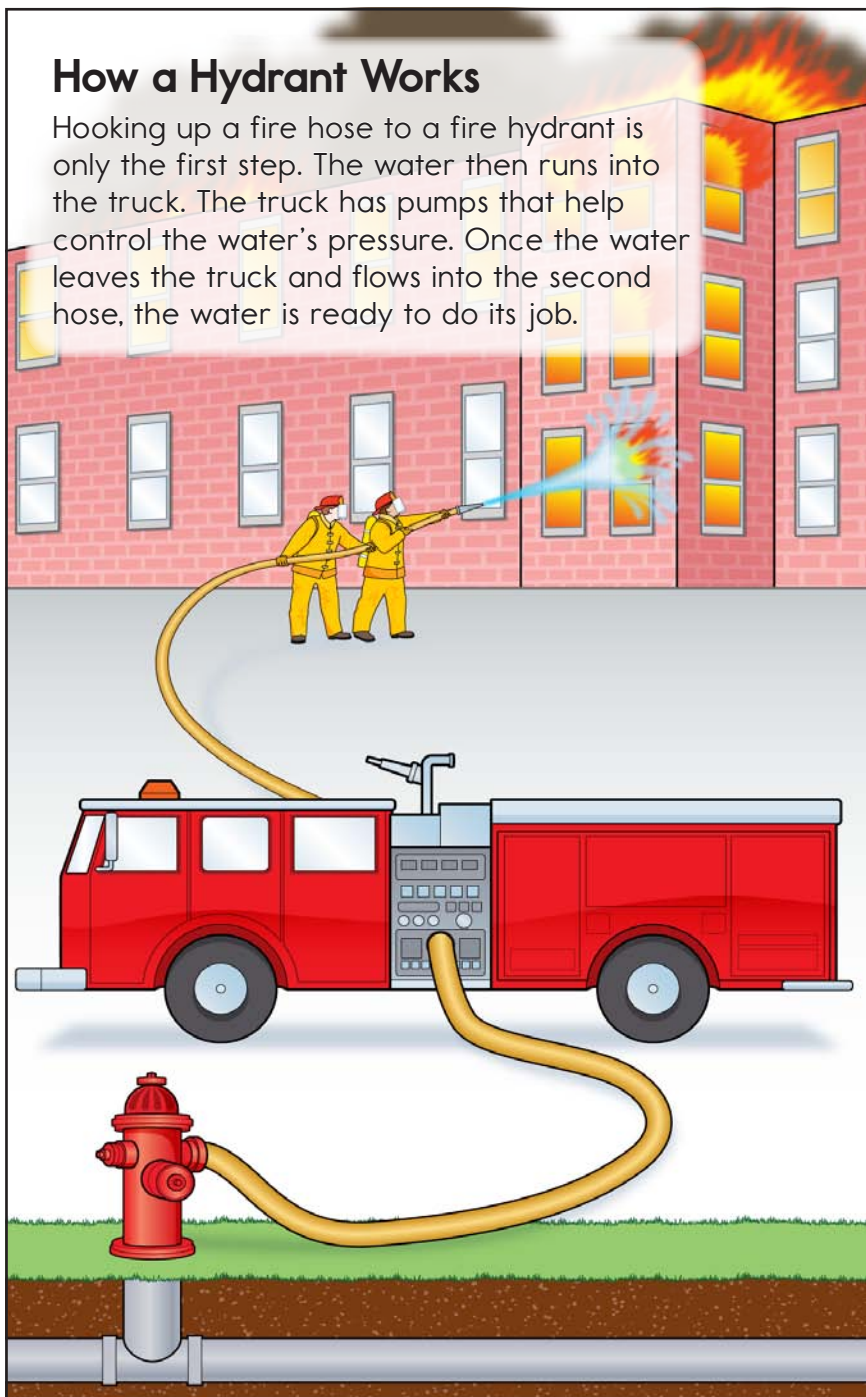
I learn how to use a fire hose.

Uncle Jason usually drives the water truck. Its tank holds enough water to fill forty-eight bathtubs! They use the water in the truck whenever there's no fire **hydrant** nearby.



## How a Hydrant Works

Hooking up a fire hose to a fire hydrant is only the first step. The water then runs into the truck. The truck has pumps that help control the water's pressure. Once the water leaves the truck and flows into the second hose, the water is ready to do its job.



## Firefighters also:

- help people after a car crash
- help a hiker who had a bad fall
- help someone stung by a swarm of bees
- help someone who's sick or injured



On the truck is everything that firefighters need, including a snake box. Since we live in the desert, the fire station gets calls from people with snakes in their yards.



Uncle Jason shows me where they stow supplies on the truck. In this case, the snake box is actually a snake bucket.



If the snakes are dangerous, firefighters catch them. The snakes are locked safely in the box. They're let go later, far from any houses or businesses. Uncle Jason shows me a rattlesnake. It gives me the creeps, but it's cool, too.





I get to put on the **gear** that firefighters wear in a fire. There's a special coat, pants, a helmet, and an air tank. It's like wearing a winter coat in the summer—heavy and hot.



How do I get out of this thing?



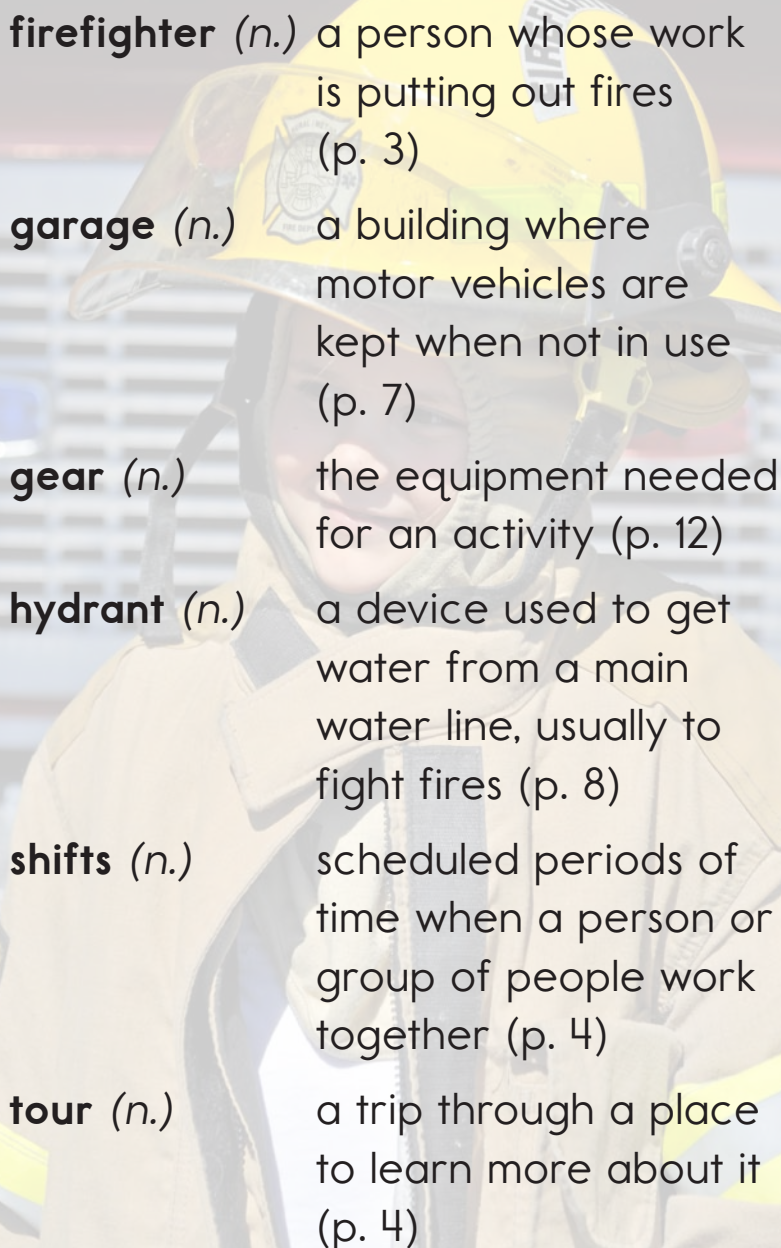
Suddenly, there's a call—it's a fire!  
Later, Uncle Jason tells me about  
the call. He carried pets out of a  
house while the other firefighters  
put out the fire. They saved the day!





It's time for me to go home for dinner. The firefighters start cooking their dinner, too. They're like one big family!

## Glossary

- 
- firefighter** (n.) a person whose work is putting out fires (p. 3)
- garage** (n.) a building where motor vehicles are kept when not in use (p. 7)
- gear** (n.) the equipment needed for an activity (p. 12)
- hydrant** (n.) a device used to get water from a main water line, usually to fight fires (p. 8)
- shifts** (n.) scheduled periods of time when a person or group of people work together (p. 4)
- tour** (n.) a trip through a place to learn more about it (p. 4)

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Author’s Note: Tillie would like to thank Gabrielle Fimbres for help  
in writing this book.

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Level J Leveled Book  
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*A Reading A-Z Level J Leveled Book*

*Word Count: 316*



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