

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read, Think, Explain

Identifying Nonfiction Elements

Use this activity sheet with “The Evil Swirling Darkness.” See *Scope’s* “Glossary of Nonfiction Terms” and “Glossary of Literary Terms” for definitions of the words that appear in bold.

Before Reading Text Features

1. Study the image on pages 4-5 and read the **headline** and **subheading** of the article. Describe the image. What do you predict the article will be about?

2. Look at the photo and map and read the caption at the top of pages 6–7. What do they tell you about Tornado Alley and Joplin?

3. Examine the image of Jeff Piotrowski on page 7 and read the caption. What do you think Piotrowski is feeling? Explain your answer.

4. Examine the images and captions on pages 8 and 9. What do the two sets of images and captions explain?

During Reading

Text Structure, Inference, Mood, Vocabulary, and Tone

5. The structure of the first paragraph on page 6 is mostly **description**. Explain what is being described.

6. From the section “Tornado Mysteries,” what can you **infer** about Jeff Piotrowski and his wife? Explain.

7. The overall **mood** of the section “False Alarms” is foreboding. Explain how this mood is created.

8. Consider this quote from page 8:

“By then, meteorologists throughout the region had realized that Joplin was in *grave* danger.”

A. Check () the box with the correct definition of *grave* as it is used in the sentence above. (Use context clues to help you. Check a dictionary if you’re not sure.)

very serious

eventual

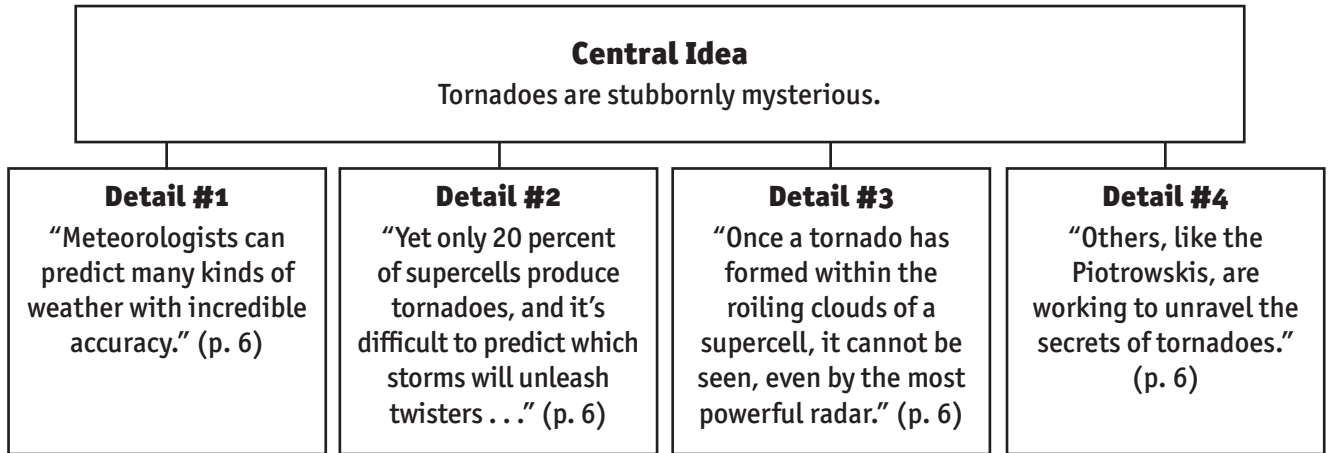
extremely sad

B. The author could have used another word instead of *grave*. How does her choice of *grave* affect the meaning of the sentence?

9. At the end of the article, the **tone** is relieved. What are some words and phrases that help establish this **tone**?

After Reading
Central Idea/Details and Objective Summary

10. Below is a **central idea** of “The Evil Swirling Darkness” and four details. Three details DO support the central idea. Cross out the detail that does NOT.



11. An **objective summary** is a short statement or paragraph that tells what an article is about. Draw a line through the two details below that should definitely NOT be included in an objective summary of “The Evil Swirling Darkness.”

1. On Sunday, May 22, 2011, one of the worst tornadoes in U.S. history struck Joplin, Missouri.
2. Bennett’s favorite cake is vanilla.
3. Storm chaser Jeff Piotrowski warned people in Joplin that a dangerous tornado was heading for the city.
4. On the day of the tornado, the Satterlee family gathered for a birthday party.
5. I was so worried about the Satterlee family’s safety.