

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, Inference

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 overall mood of the article will be?

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? What do you think this might mean about the tornado that hit 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? How are they related?

During Reading

Text Structure, Inference, Mood, Vocabulary, Tone

5. Check (✓) the statement that BEST describes the **text structure**, or how the author organizes information, in the first paragraph on page 6.

The author uses a problem-and-solution structure to describe how the Satterlees prepared for the party.

The author describes details of Bennett and Ethan’s day before the tornado hit.

The author compares and contrasts what Bennett and Ethan were doing the day of the tornado.

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

7. What is the overall **mood** of the section “False Alarms”?

8. Consider this quote from page 9:

“Around the same time, the Satterlees emerged from their storage room to discover rain pouring through the roof, from which entire chunks had been ripped away.”

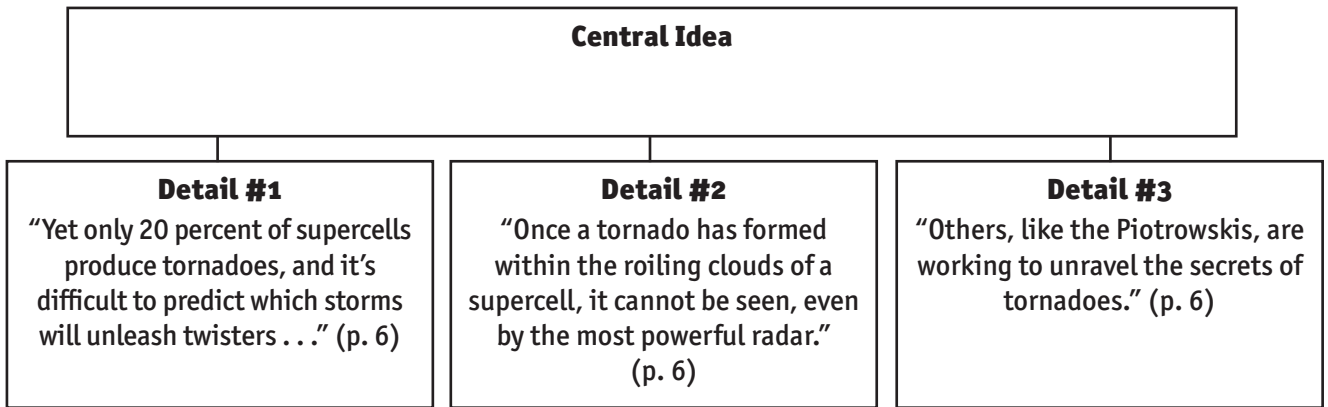
A. What does *emerged* mean in this sentence? (Use context clues to help you. Then check a dictionary.)

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

9. What is the **tone** of the conclusion of the article on page 10? Explain your answer.

After Reading
Central Ideas/Details and Objective Summary

10. Below are three **supporting details** for a central idea of “The Evil Swirling Darkness.” In the space provided, write a **central idea** that these details support.



11. Write a five- to six-sentence **objective summary** of “The Evil Swirling Darkness.” (Hint: Think about what you would say to a friend who asks, “What is this article about?”)
