



Assignment

Determine a Central Idea from Informational Text

Topic: Miracle on the Hudson

Your Assignment:

Read the passage. Then answer the question.

Keeping it Calm, Cool, and Collected

By Janet Wong

Remaining calm under pressure is no easy task! However, airline pilots do this every day while flying passengers around the world. Pilots are responsible for the lives of all people traveling on the aircraft. Therefore, the job of a pilot can be extremely stressful in unforeseen circumstances. Pilots don't have an average job; they protect the lives of all travelers and deliver them safely to their final destination.

On January 15, 2009, U.S. Airways flight 1549, traveling from New York to North Carolina, experienced a catastrophic midair failure. This means that both engines had failed, or stopped working, as a result of striking a flock of birds. The pilot, Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger III and First Officer Jeff Skiles, were faced with an emergency that could mean disaster for all 155 people on board the airbus. The plane had a very good chance of crashing into the city or into the water.

Jumping into action, Captain Sully kept his cool as he contacted the airport control tower requesting an emergency landing. Attempting to turn the plane around, it became clear that the aircraft was not going to make it to the nearby airport. The next airport was out of reach as well. The plane was now gliding through the air at just over 900 feet. This is very low for an airplane. Most fly at 30,000 feet up in the sky.



Realizing that New York City is a bustling city packed with both skyscrapers and people, Captain Sully made a quick decision to ditch the airplane in the Hudson River rather than risk the lives of the people on the ground. To “ditch” a jetliner, is a term pilots use to land a plane (using wind) on the water. The prospects of survival are not good.

As everyone on board prepared for the worst, Sully never panicked, even when faced with catastrophe. Passengers and crew members braced for impact as Flight 1549 splash-landed into the water. The pilot had successfully landed the giant airplane in the river. Some call it “The Miracle on the Hudson”.

All 155 people aboard the aircraft beat the odds and survived as a result of Captain Sully’s and First Officer Jeff Skiles’ courageous actions. These men maintained composure and kept their cool even in the face of disaster.

Read the paragraph:

Remaining calm under pressure is no easy task! However, airline pilots do this every day while flying passengers around the world. Pilots are responsible for the lives of all people traveling on the aircraft. Therefore, the job of a pilot can be extremely stressful in unforeseen circumstances. Pilots don’t have an average job; they protect the lives of all travelers and deliver them safely to their final destination.

Stem Starters:

You may want to consider starting your response using one of these stems. You do not have to do so, but they are here to help you if you need them.

The author’s central idea in this paragraph is...

The central idea of this paragraph is...

In this paragraph, the central idea is...



Your Response:

