Anticipation Guide

Read the following statements. Mark each blank with either an A if you agree with the statement or a D if you disagree with the statement. Go with your first instinct or gut reaction and try not to linger on your decisions. When you complete the questionnaire, you will share your decisions with a classmate.

1. ______ All heroes are brave.
2. ______ Heroes are created by the events around them.
3. ______ Most people have a hero.
4. ______ You cannot be defeated and still be considered a hero.
5. ______ In order to be a true hero, a person would have to risk his or her life.
6. ______ If all you want is fame and glory, then regardless of what you do, you should not be called a hero.
7. ______ All heroes are human.
8. ______ Real-life heroes are not like the heroes we read about in books or watch in movies.
9. ______ Heroes are always handsome or beautiful.
10. ______ If you perform one heroic deed, then you are a hero.
11. ______ Heroes are always famous.
12. ______ I know a person whom I consider a hero.
13. ______ Heroic deeds happen every day, all around us.
14. ______ Heroes must face tragedy.
15. ______ Heroes never return to normal life.
16. ______ Heroes are always adults.
Heroes in Action

Before Reading
Brainstorm a list of events or challenges or situations in which an ordinary person might act heroically.

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Quickwrite: Write about an event that involved someone acting heroically. This may be an event from your brainstormed list, an event that you saw personally, or one that you have heard or read about. Perhaps it is an event that you saw on the news or depicted in a movie. Write about the most important aspects of the event. (What was the event? Whom did it involve? When did it happen? Where did it occur? Why is it an important event? How did it involve heroism?)

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During Reading
As you read the following article, take notes in the My Notes section on the 5 Ws and an H questions: Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How. Paraphrase the facts of the article, rather than quoting passages verbatim. Your How? note should answer the question “How can the boy be considered a hero?”

Remember, paraphrasing a text requires care. When you paraphrase, you must use different language and sentence structure. If a paraphrase is a word-for-word match to the original text or so close that it is difficult to tell the difference, it could be called plagiarism.
Baton Rouge, LA – In the chaos that was Causeway Boulevard, this group of evacuees stood out: a 6-year-old boy walking down the road, holding a 5-month-old, surrounded by five toddlers who followed him around as if he were their leader. They were holding hands. Three of the children were about 2 years old, and one was wearing only diapers. A 3-year-old girl had her 14-month-old brother in tow. The 6-year-old spoke for all of them, and he said his name was Deamonte Love. After their rescue Thursday, paramedics in the Baton Rouge rescue operations headquarters tried to coax their names out of them.

Transporting the children alone was “the hardest thing I’ve ever done in my life, knowing that their parents are either dead” or that they had been abandoned, said Pat Coveney, a Houston emergency medical technician who put them into the back of his ambulance and drove them out of New Orleans. “It goes back to the same thing,” he said. “How did a 6-year-old end up being in charge of six babies?”

At the rescue headquarters, the children ate cafeteria food and fell into a deep sleep. Deamonte gave his address, his phone number, and the name of his elementary school. He said the 5-month-old was his brother, Darynael, that two others were his cousins, Tyreek and Zoria. The other three lived in his apartment building. The children were clean and healthy, said Joyce Miller, a nurse who examined them. It was clear, she said, that “time had been taken with those kids.” The baby was “fat and happy.”

The children were transferred to a shelter operated by the Department of Social Services, rooms full of toys and cribs where mentors from the Big Buddy Program were on hand. For the next two days, the staff did detective work. One of the 2-year-olds steadfastly refused to say her name until a worker took her picture with a digital camera and showed it to her. The little girl pointed at it and cried out,
“Gabby!” One of the boys—with a halo of curly hair—had a G printed on his T-shirt when he arrived; when volunteers started calling him G, they noticed that he responded. Deamonte began to give more details to Derrick Robertson, a 27-year-old Big Buddy mentor: How he saw his mother cry when he was loaded onto the helicopter. How he promised he’d take care of his brother.

Later Saturday night, they found Deamonte’s mother, who was in a shelter in San Antonio along with the four mothers of the other five children. Catrina Williams, 26, saw her children’s pictures on a website set up over the weekend by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. By Sunday, a private plane from Angel Flight was waiting to take the children to Texas.

In a phone interview, Williams said she is the kind of mother who doesn’t let her children out of her sight. What happened on Thursday, she said, was that her family, trapped in an apartment building, began to feel desperate. The water wasn’t going down and they had been living without light, food or air conditioning for four days. The baby needed milk and the milk was gone. So she decided they would evacuate by helicopter. When a helicopter arrived to pick them up, they were told to send the children first and that the helicopter would be back in 25 minutes. She and her neighbors had to make a quick decision. It was a wrenching moment, Williams’ father, Adrian Love, told her to send the children ahead.

“I told them to go ahead and give them up because me, I would give my life for my kids. They should feel the same way,” said Love, 48.

His daughter and her friends followed his advice. “We did what we had to do for our kids because we love them,” Williams said.

The helicopter didn’t come back. While the children were transported to Baton Rouge, their parents wound up in San Antonio, and although Williams was reassured that they would be reunited, days passed without any contact. On Sunday, she was elated. “All I know is, I just want to see my kids,” she said. “Everything else will just fall into place.”

**After Reading**
On separate paper summarize, in three or four sentences, the main points of the article (use your 5Ws and H notes).