

# Just Helping My Family

A 12-year-old boy is being called a hero after he risked his life to save his four younger siblings from their burning home, Local 15-TV reports.

Justin Jackson was sleeping in the living room with his three younger brothers over the weekend when a fire began in their Milton, Fla., home.

'I woke up and I saw fire on the curtains,' said Justin's brother, Emilio.

Justin, 12, immediately leapt into action, getting his brothers, 5-year-old William, 6-year-old Diego and 9-year-old Emilio, out of the house.

'I knew the house was going to be gone. I knew we had to move,' he said.

Once his brothers were safely outside, Justin tried to alert his neighbours.

When no one responded, he ran back into the burning house. His 3-year-old sister, Brooklynn, was asleep in a bedroom, the Pensacola News Journal reports.



'I had to pick her up and she was real stiff. I was just real scared at that point,' said Justin, who managed to bring Brooklynn to safety in time.

According to UPI, Justin ran back into the house once more – this time, to call 911.

'There aren't enough words to describe how proud I am of Justin. He's my hero,' said mother Tiffanie Jackson to Local 15-TV.

Justin insists that he was just doing what he needed to do.

'I was just helping my family and stuff,' he said.

The Pensacola News Journal reports that Justin was the oldest person in the home when the fire broke out. His father was out of town on business and his mother was working a night shift at a nursing home.

Milton Fire Chief John Reble said the home is a complete loss, UPI reports.

Emilio told Local 15-TV that he wouldn't be alive if it wasn't for his brave big brother.

'I love him all the way to the Universe and back,' he said.

Questioning	Find the meaning of the text and further your understanding.
Visualising	Use your imagination to picture what is happening in a text.
Sequencing	Write the things in time order.
Summarising	Find the key points and explain your understanding.
Predicting	Use clues from what you have read and what you already know to make an educated guess about what might happen next.
Retrieval	Retrieve (fetch) and record information directly from the text.
Deduction	Search for clues in the text to find evidence.
Inference	Use what you have read. Use what you know or have experienced before.
Stamina	Read quickly and with understanding for longer periods of time.
Speed.	Read quickly. Understand the text.

1. Read the passage. Time yourself. How long did it take?  
 2. Re-read the passage. Time yourself. How long did it take?

**Dive Deeper 1**  
 Answer the questions, that are on the next page.

**Dive Deeper 2**  
 Mark your answers.  
 Next to each answer, write the skill/s that you have used.

1. How many people were in the house?

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2. Why do you think Justin might have found it hard to alert the neighbours?

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3. "*Justin, 12, immediately leapt into action, getting his brothers, 5-year-old William, 6-year-old Diego and 9-year-old Emilio out of the house.*" (paragraph 4).

(a) Find the verb the writer chose to show how quickly Justin acted.

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(b) Suggest a different verb that would have the same meaning.

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4. Using information from the text, choose whether each statement is a fact (F) or an opinion (O).

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	F	O
Justin risked his life to save his siblings.		
Emilio woke up and saw fire on the curtains.		
Justin took his three younger brothers outside.		
He rescued his sister.		
He was scared.		
He was a hero.		
He said he just did what anyone would do.		

5. Number these events to show the order of Justin's actions.

	Order
He dialled 911.	
He got his brothers out of the house.	
He carried his sister out of the house.	
He tried to alert the neighbours.	

6. Do you think Justin was a hero?

Yes  No

Explain your answer using quotations from the text.

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## Dive Deeper 3

Compare the text that you have read this week (Just helping my family) with the one you read last week (Mikael saves the day).

What is similar about the two texts? What is different?

How do you know that they are not poems?

Are the writing styles similar or different?

Do you like the way that they have been written? Would you include anything else?

# ANSWERS

1. Five
2. One of the following:
  - It was the middle of the night.
  - There was no one at home.
  - They lived too far away.
3. a) leapt  
b) sprang, flew, jumped
4. Justin risked his life to save his siblings - opinion  
Emilio woke up and saw fire on the curtains - fact  
Justin took his three younger brothers outside - fact  
He rescued his sister - fact  
He was scared - opinion  
He was a hero - opinion  
He said he just did what anyone would do - opinion
5. He dialled 911 - 4  
He got his brothers out of the house - 1  
He carried his sister out of the house - 3  
He tried to alert the neighbours - 2
6. YES  
He risked his own life to rescue his sister. He was safe and "he ran back into the burning house" (paragraph 7) to get Brooklynn.  
  
No  
-He shouldn't have gone back into the burning building, especially when he ran back "to call 911".  
-He did what anyone would have done. As he says, "I was just helping my family and stuff" (paragraph 11).