1 Stories

Reading and Understanding

1 Think and circle.

Look at the words below from the three stories in this section. Circle the odd word in each set of words. Be prepared to explain your choice.

How the Bear Lost its Tail	1	fox	fish	tail	bear
	2	ice	winter	snow	sun
	3	black	trick	shiny	long
Space Waste!	4	moon	waste	junk	rubbish
	5	create	build	pull	make
	6	president	official	scientist	minister
TRAPPED	7	crowded	dim	dark	gloomy
	8	smell	fear	see	feel
	9	smoke	sharp	flames	fire

2 Read and answer.

Read the background information and the story Trapped. Answer the questions on page 3.

TRAPPED

Background Information

On October 28, 1995, tragedy hit the city of Baku in Azerbaijan. During rush hour, a fire broke out on an underground train and killed more than 300 people. Read about Vagif's experience.

Azerbaijan

Suddenly all the lights went out. Then the train stopped in the dark tunnel.

We waited. We thought the lights would come on again, but nothing happened. Then I began to smell something. I could smell smoke. The people around me started to scream, "The train is on fire!"

Then I saw flames appearing. "If something doesn't happen soon," I said to myself, "I will be burned alive." As I stood in the blackness of the crowded, burning train, I could see no way to escape.

Then, something happened. I heard a noise like glass breaking. In the dim light, I slowly began to push my way towards the noise until I felt the sharp edges of a broken window. I pushed my body through the window and tumbled onto the ground outside. I shouted at the other passengers in the train to follow me.

Then, mad with fear, we ran away from the burning train. For two hours, we walked down the gloomy train tunnel. At last we saw a bright light in the distance.

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