

This Is So Hard!

FOCUS QUESTION

What are some ways people get through difficult situations?

NOTICE AND WONDER

Look at the titles and images of the stories you will read in this lesson. What do you notice? What do you wonder? Discuss your ideas with a partner.

WHAT CAN HELP PEOPLE SOLVE PROBLEMS?

Circle the traits you think are the most useful ways of solving problems.

determination

confidence

stubbornness

creativity

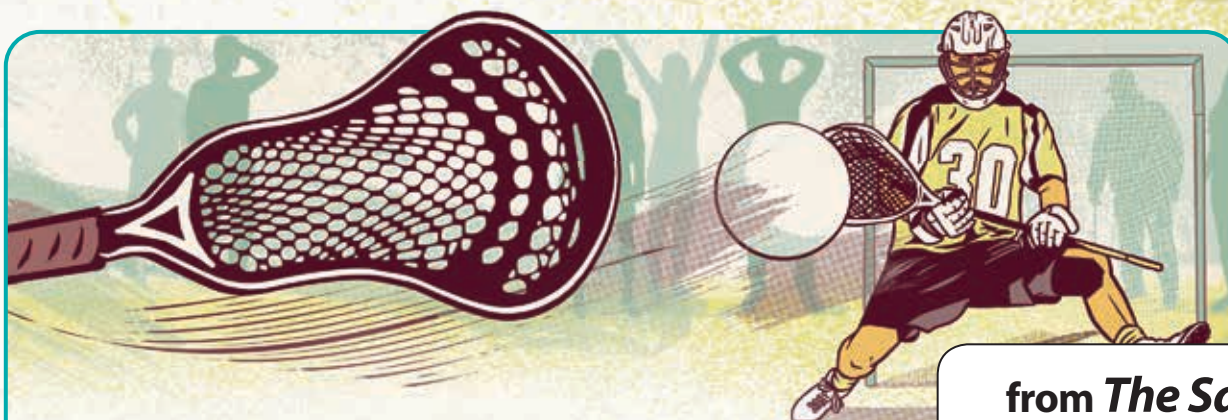
staying calm

sense of humor

listening

I think ___ is important
because ___.

One example of ___ is ___.



from *The Save*

by Joseph Bruchac



*School Dance
Disaster*

from *Stef Soto,
Taco Queen*

by Jennifer Torres



from *Nature Girl*

by Jane Kelley

from The Save

by Joseph Bruchac

Oren is back-up goalie on his lacrosse team. He's proud of the sport his Iroquois ancestors invented—but terrified to play.

- 1 *Be a panther in the goal.* That was how his grandfather and **namesake** put it to him. Oren crouched. He could feel his heart beating now. It was pounding so hard it was as if an eagle were trying to fight its way out of his chest. Number 10 and 7 from the other team were crisscrossing in front of him, trying to draw him one way or the other.
- 2 Oren stayed in his crouch. *A panther. Be a panther,* he thought.
- 3 Number 10 had the ball. Everything was in slow motion now. [He] was reversing his stick to make a shot. The ball was about to leave the webbing just as Number 7 charged Oren. Oren tried to leap, lacrosse stick extended to stop the shot. But as he did so, his feet crossed and his legs tangled together, at the exact moment when Number 7 ran into him.
- 4 Oren flipped in midair and landed flat on his belly. He couldn't move. The wind had been knocked out of him like a piece of bubble wrap tromped on by a boot. *I really am a bum* was all he could think.
- 5 He gasped, struggling to regain his breath. A whistle sounded. The game was over. People were shouting. *They're praising that goal scored while I was belly flopping,* Oren thought. 

namesake = a person that someone else is named after

Stop & Discuss

What is the most important thing that happens in this part of the story?

Underline sentences in paragraphs 4 and 5 that support your answer.



- 6 Then he realized the voices were those of his own teammates. Oren looked down at the stick he was still clutching. There, held in the webbing like an eagle's egg in its nest, was the ball.

* * *

- 7 *I should tell everyone it was an accident*, Oren thought. But he didn't.
- 8 "Wish I could have been at the game today," his grandfather said later. "Heard you made a great play."
- 9 Oren took a deep breath. Then he explained it all, how it had been nothing more than a happy accident. How he felt like a fraud. How he didn't deserve any praise at all.
- 10 His grandfather just listened. "What was it you intended to do other than stop that shot?" he said.
- 11 "Gramps, all it was," Oren said, "was dumb luck."
- 12 His grandfather shook his head. "I think it was more than that. I've watched you practice. You have good **reflexes**. Sometimes we can do things that surprise even ourselves. Plus, what's wrong with luck? If I had to choose, my goal would be to have somebody on my team who's lucky any day of the week."



reflexes = quick movements in response to a situation

Stop & Discuss

How do Oren and his grandfather think differently about what happened at the game?

Underline details in paragraph 9 or 11 that tell how Oren feels. Underline details in paragraph 12 that tell how his grandfather feels.

Oren thought ____ because ____.

His grandfather thought ____ and ____.



Summarize a Story

- A **summary** includes important details about the characters and setting and explains the key events in the story.
- A summary should be brief. Not every detail from the story needs to be included.
- Someone who has not read the story should be able to understand it by reading your summary.

Reread/Think

Reread "The Save." Then use the story map to list important details about the setting and the characters and the key events in the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

Setting

Characters

Beginning

Middle

End

Talk

Use the sentence frames to talk about your completed story map.
Work together to decide if any details should be added or removed.

In the beginning, ____.

In the middle, ____.

In the end, ____.

I think you could remove the detail about ____ because ____.

I think you should add the detail about ____ because ____.

Write

Write a short summary of "The Save."

In the beginning, _____

In the middle, _____

In the end, _____

WRITING CHECKLIST

- ☐ I listed the main characters and setting.
- ☐ I described the most important events in the beginning, middle, and end.
- ☐ Someone who has not read the story can understand my summary.
- ☐ I used correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.