

# Blizzard Bag

## Mrs. Mason – 7<sup>th</sup> grade Literature



Read the story "A Letter from New York" before answering questions below.

### *A Letter from New York* by Jean Lawler

**D**ear Aunt Julia,

I have so much to tell you, I don't know where to begin! Remember last summer when I told you that I was planning to enter the *TeenSay* Magazine essay contest? Well, I entered, and my essay, "Improving Community Safety," won! The prize was a weekend trip to New York City, with a visit to the *TeenSay* offices to see how they publish the magazine each month. Three of us were chosen to go from Texas: two other contest winners, and myself.

My mom took me to the airport for the flight to New York, and I have to admit I was nervous! I've flown before, but never without my parents. But when we got to the airport and met the other people in our group, I relaxed. The group leader, Ms. Alvarez, was really friendly and easy to talk to. She is in charge of marketing and special promotions at *TeenSay* Magazine. While we waited for our flight, she described the activities we'd be participating in that weekend. She also introduced me to the other contest winners. Irene is from Arlington, and she's 13 years old like me. She won a prize for the series of photographs she took when her family drove across the country last summer. The other winner is a 15-year-old boy named Eddie. Eddie won the *TeenSay* community spirit award for cleaning up and improving the neighborhood parks in his town. Irene and Eddie both seemed like a lot of fun. Before our plane even took off, we were laughing and telling jokes like we'd known each other forever.

I was surprised at how quick the flight seemed. Since Ms. Alvarez and I were sitting next to each other, she told me a lot about herself and how she had ended up working at *TeenSay* Magazine. She said that as a young girl she had always enjoyed writing stories and interviewing people. She also loved planning and organizing events. She was always in charge of planning her school's dances and fundraisers, and even organized her family's big reunion party every year. After college, she got a job as a reporter at *TeenSay*, and then she gradually moved into their marketing and special promotions department. She said that she still occasionally writes an article for them, but she loves what she does now. I told her that I was thinking about becoming a reporter someday, and she said that she thought I could do it if I worked really hard.

Before I knew it, we were landing in New York. At the airport, we were picked up in a limousine—just like celebrities! We drove to the *TeenSay* offices downtown. All during the ride, Irene and Eddie and I were pressed up against the windows like little kids, staring at the buildings and the people we passed. You wouldn't believe how different New York is from Texas! The colors, the smells, the noises—everything is different. We couldn't get over how crowded it was: all of the people and cars on the streets and so much going on. We were excited to jump in and start seeing the sights.

When we arrived at the *TeenSay* offices, Ms. Alvarez took us on a tour. We got to see how a magazine goes from a rough manuscript to a finished issue. I couldn't believe how much work and detail goes into each issue, and how many people it takes to do the work. My favorite part was seeing the bulletin board where sketches, rough drafts, and outlines get pinned up in sequence. We also met many of the employees, from illustrators and writers to photographers and editors, and they answered all of our questions.

By the time the tour was over, Ms. Alvarez could tell that we were getting tired. She took us to her favorite restaurant, and on the way there we had a chance to do some window-shopping and check out some of the sights. All around us, people were speaking different languages. I told Ms. Alvarez that I thought I could spend a whole year in New York and still not see everything!

When I see you at Mom's birthday party next week, I will tell you all about the sightseeing we are going to do tomorrow. I am enclosing a copy of my essay with this letter. So far, it has been a great trip.

Love,  
Yoshiko

1

From whose point of view is this story told?

- (A) Ms. Alvarez's
- (B) Aunt Julia's
- (C) Yoshiko's
- (D) Eddie's

STORY

2

Yoshiko is in New York City because

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- (F) she won the trip in an essay contest.
- (G) she is visiting her Aunt Julia.
- (H) Ms. Alvarez invited her to visit *TeenSay* Magazine.
- (I) she wants to be a reporter someday.

3

How would you describe Ms. Alvarez?

Be sure to site passages from the story in quotes to support your answer.

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What conclusion can you draw about Yoshiko and Aunt Julia?

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- (A) They do not have a very good relationship.
- (B) They are close and share their experiences with each other.
- (C) Yoshiko writes to her aunt because her mother wants her to.
- (D) Yoshiko and her aunt travel together frequently.

5

Where does Yoshiko's adventure begin?

- F at the *TeenSay* offices
- G at home
- H in New York City
- I at the airport

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6

Read this sentence from the story.

**She also loved planning and organizing events.**

What does *organizing* mean?

- A attending
- B taking part in
- C arranging
- D observing

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7

What are some of the differences between New York and Yoshiko's hometown?

Be sure to site passages from the story in quotes to support your answer.

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# Bizzard Bag Alliteration

## Mrs. Mason- Literature 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>

1. Select one alliteration tongue twister from the list below and illustrate it on a sheet of 8 1/2 X 11 paper (printer paper is fine). Remember to write your chosen alliteration tongue twister at the top of your illustration.
  2. Complete two twisters of your own by choosing one of these ideas:
    - Create alliteration twisters about famous people with whom you are familiar.
    - Create alliteration twisters about popular products you use.
- 
- **Angela Abigail Applewhite ate anchovies and artichokes.**
  - **Bertha Bartholomew blew big, blue bubbles.**
  - **Clever Clifford Cutter clumsily closed the closet clasps.**
  - **Dwayne Diddle drew a drawing of dreaded Dracula.**
  - **Elmer Elwood eluded elven elderly elephants.**
  - **Floyd Flingle flipped flat flapjacks.**
  - **Greta Gruber grabbed a group of green grapes.**
  - **Hattie Henderson hated happy healthy hippos.**
  - **Ida Ivy identified the ivory iris.**
  - **Julie Jackson juggled the juicy, jiggly jello.**
  - **Karl Kessler kept the ketchup in the kitchen.**
  - **Lila Ledbetter lugged a lot of little lemons.**
  - **Milton Mallard mailed a mangled mango.**
  - **Norris Newton never needed new noodles.**
  - **Patsy planter plucked plump, purple, plastic plums.**
  - **Quinella Quist quite quickly quelled the quarreling quartet.**
  - **Randy Rathbone wrapped a rather rare red rabbit.**
  - **Shelly Sherman shivered in a sheer, short, shirt.**
  - **Trina Tweety tripped two twittering twins under a twiggy tree.**
  - **Uri Udall usually used his unique, unusual unicycle.**
  - **Vicky Vinc viewed a very valuable vase.**
  - **Walter Whipple warily warned the weary warrior.**
  - **Xerxes Xenon expected to xerox extra x-rays.**
  - **Yolana Yvonne Yarger yodeled up yonder yesterday.**
  - **Zigmund Zane zig-zagged through the zany zoo zone.**

# Blizzard Bag- Mason

## 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> grade- Day 3

**Please write a two- three paragraph essay using the following prompt:**

**Since you have received an unexpected snow day, I would love to know how you spent your day. Please describe all the events of the day from morning until bedtime. Instead of using "I" and "me", make it a 3<sup>rd</sup> person narrative. For example, my essay would begin:**

**"When Mrs. Mason awoke to the sound of an incoming text from WKYC, she knew Baxter would have a constant companion for the day".**

**Have fun writing!**