

THINKING WITH MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Video: Caution: Flash Flood Alert

*Cause-Effect Relationships Nonfiction Text Structure
(cause-effect chain)*

Rayhana and her family are planning an exciting summer vacation to New York, but Rayhana is a little nervous to fly. She thought that it might be helpful to read about flying before she had her first experience on a plane. Rayhana found many interesting facts about flying that helped calm her nerves. She learned that air traffic controllers go through very intense training, each plane in the sky has its own special "highway," and virtually all of the systems on a plane have back-ups! She also came across an interesting article about a brave pilot who encountered a unique situation in flight and landed safely on the Hudson River. The article was a fantastic example of Cause-Effect Nonfiction Text Structure!

Now it's **Your Turn!** Read *Miracle on the Hudson* and create a *Think Aloud* and Graphic Organizer with your family or friends.

Then compare your thinking with [Rayhana's Think Aloud and Graphic Organizer](#).



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Before You Read:

Think about what you may already know about aerodynamics.
Think about what you've learned about cause-effect relationships.
Share your thoughts with your family and friends.

While You Read:

Ask your parent, brother, sister, or friend to read this passage with you. Look for signal words and see if together you can determine the chain of causes and effects. You may want to highlight signal words in blue. Highlight the causes in orange and the effect in green. (You may use any colors available to you – just remember your color scheme.)

After You Read:

- Think about this question, "What events led to a miracle on the Hudson?"
- Discuss your ideas with your family or friends. Together, create a collaborative Think Aloud about how you used Cause-Effect Nonfiction Text Structure to determine why it was a miracle. Share your *thinking* with each other.

Miracle on the Hudson

On January 15, 2009, U.S. Airways Flight 1549 took off on a short flight from New York City, to Charlotte, North Carolina. As the airplane began to climb, a flock of Canadian Geese collided with it. As a result of this collision, geese were pulled into the plane's two engines, causing them to fail. Suddenly powerless, the pilot, Captain Chesley Sullenberger, radioed air traffic control. The air traffic controller recommended alternate airports where Captain Sullenberger could make an emergency landing. Because the plane was losing altitude too rapidly to make it to an airport, Captain Sullenberger made a wrenching decision. He would have to attempt a landing in the Hudson River. While the co-pilot tried to restart the engines, the crew prepared the passengers for impact. In a matter of minutes, Captain Sullenberger expertly ditched the plane in the frigid waters. On account of rescue boats and ferries already in the area, all 155 stunned and grateful passengers and crew on board were quickly brought to safety. This potentially catastrophic event began with a flock of birds knocking out an airplane's power, and ended with a miraculous outcome.





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Create a Graphic Organizer:

After you have determined the cause-effect chain for the *Miracle on the Hudson*, create a graphic organizer below to represent your thinking and to help you remember the author's main points.





Compare your Think Aloud with Rayhana's Think Aloud:

Rayhana's Think Aloud: "When I read the title, I wonder what the author means by "Miracle on the Hudson?" After reading the first sentence, I realize he is writing about an airplane flight. I wonder what this has to do with a miracle? I hope nothing serious happens! I find that a flock of geese collided with the plane and "as a result" the geese were pulled into the engines. I realize from the signal words "as a result" that the author is sharing a *cause-effect relationship* with me. The *cause* is the collision with geese and the *effect* is that geese were pulled into the engines.

As I continue reading, I see the word "causing," another signal word. It now seems that the geese being pulled into the engines *caused* the engines to fail. I am thinking that the author is using a *cause-effect chain* to describe the what's going on because there is a sequence, or chain of events, each *causing* the next event to occur.

In the very next sentence, I notice that the plane was "powerless." This is an *effect* of the failing engines. When I read the word "because," another signal word, I realize that the loss of power *caused* the plane to quickly begin losing altitude. The rapid loss of altitude *caused* the pilot to land on the Hudson River. I understand better the events that happened when I think about these signal words. It's helpful to identify the relationship between each event. I can't believe the pilot had to land on the river! Scary! I realize the words, "on account" signals another *cause-effect relationship*. *Because* the pilot landed safely on the river and rescue boats and ferries were there, all 155 passengers and crewmembers were saved. That's a relief! By paying close attention to the signal words, I can easily see the connection between what happened and why it happened.

Wow, that pilot had to be very brave! Now I can see why it was called the "Miracle on the Hudson."

Miracle on the Hudson

On January 15, 2009, U.S. Airways Flight 1549 took off on a short flight from New York City, to Charlotte, North Carolina. As the airplane began to climb, a **flock of Canadian Geese collided with it. As a result** of this collision, **geese were pulled into the plane's two engines, causing them to fail.** Suddenly **powerless**, the pilot, Captain Chesley Sullenberger, radioed air traffic control. The air traffic controller recommended alternate airports where Captain Sullenberger could make an emergency landing. **Because** the **plane was losing altitude too rapidly** to make it to an airport, Captain Sullenberger made a wrenching decision. He would have to **attempt a landing in the Hudson River.** While the co-pilot tried to restart the engines, the crew prepared the passengers for impact. In a matter of minutes, Captain Sullenberger expertly ditched the plane in the frigid waters. **On account of rescue boats and ferries already in the area, all 155 stunned and grateful passengers and crew on board were quickly brought to safety.** This potentially catastrophic event began with a flock of birds knocking out an airplane's power, and ended with a miraculous outcome.





Compare your Graphic Organizer with Rayhana's Graphic Organizer:

Rayhana's Graphic Organizer: "Because there is a sequence, or chain of events, causing the next event, I'm going to use a cause-effect chain graphic organizer."

Questions to Think and Talk About:

- How do *signal words* help Rayhana make sense of the text?
- How does the *Cause-Effect Chain Graphic Organizer* help Rayhana determine important ideas?
- Why might this process help you make sense of text?
- When might this process be useful?

