Winter Storm Survival on the Road

Pre-reading

Questions:

• What should you do if you get stuck in your car during a snowstorm?
• Has it happened to you or someone you know?

Definitions:

• Survive – to live or continue to live
• Visibility – the ability to see
• Carbon monoxide – a very poisonous gas that has no color or smell

Reading

Joe found himself driving in a snowstorm. The roads were slippery. Visibility was poor.

Soon he was stuck in the ditch. He did the right thing by staying with his car. People who leave their car can get lost. They can become exhausted and overcome by the cold. Walking in a storm is very dangerous.

While he was waiting for help, he shoveled the snow away from the tail pipe of his car. A blocked tail pipe causes deadly fumes of carbon monoxide to back up inside of a car. Joe was now ready to start the engine and warm the car. Joe was glad he had just filled his gas tank. It could take a long time for help to arrive.

Joe was also glad he had prepared a winter storm survival kit for his car. He had a warm blanket. (A sleeping bag is another option.) He also had these items in a box he kept in his trunk:

- First aid kit
- Booster cables
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Knife
- Paper Towels
- Tool kit
- Ice scraper
- Small snow shovel
- Snowbrush
- Candy bars – or other high calorie foods that won’t spoil
- Small can and water proof matches to melt snow for drinking water
- Ten pound bag of sand or kitty litter – to put under tires for better traction on snow or ice

After three hours of waiting, help did arrive. Joe was very thankful! He was also very pleased with himself. He had made good decisions and was well prepared. He had stayed warm and safe.

Level 3.5
Understanding

1. What does the word option mean? ______________________________________________________

2. Why do you think it’s important to have a small snow shovel in your trunk? ______________

3. How long was it before help came to Joe? _____________________________________________

4. What does the word dangerous mean? _________________________________________________

5. Why should you stay with your car if you get stuck in the ditch? ___________________________

Writing

Choice A: Write about Joe’s “stuck in the snow” experience. What did he do? How was he prepared for such an event?

Choice B: Write about a time you were stuck in the snow. What did you do? How do you prepare for such an event?