

In Focus 1 - Speed Reading Unit 12

Captain Sully

On a cold day in January, something surprising happened in New York City. It was about a man named Captain Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger and his airplane. This story is known as the “Miracle on the Hudson,” and it’s a real-life story that shows how people can act in difficult situations.

On January 15, 2009, Captain Sully was flying an airplane from an airport in New York. Suddenly, something happened. Birds flew right into the airplane’s engines. This was very bad because airplanes need their engines to fly, just like you need your legs to run. When the engines stopped working, the airplane couldn’t stay up in the air.

Now, Captain Sully had to make a very big decision very quickly. He could try to fly back to the airport, but that was a big risk. Instead, he thought of something else. He decided to land the airplane on the Hudson River. Yes, you heard that right—on the water!

Landing a big airplane on a river had never really been done before like this. It was a huge risk. But Captain Sully was very skilled, and he cared a lot about keeping all the people safe. So, he flew the airplane down, down, down towards the river.

And he did it! He landed the airplane on the Hudson River, and it stayed on the water just like a ship. Everyone on the airplane was surprised but very happy. They all got out safe and sound. This amazing landing was called the “Miracle on the Hudson” because it was so surprising and wonderful that everyone was safe. Captain Sully became a hero because he saved so many lives with his quick thinking. But Captain Sully always said he was just doing his job and that it was a team effort.

After the airplane landed on the Hudson River, something interesting happened. People watching from the buildings of New York City couldn’t believe their eyes. They saw people standing on the airplane, waiting to be saved. It was something no one could have ever imagined they would see that day. Captain Sully made sure everyone got off the airplane. He walked through the airplane two times to check that no one was inside. Thanks to him and his crew, all 155 people on the airplane were safe.

After the accident, experts looked at the airplane to figure out how to make flying even safer. They learned a lot from what happened that day. Captain Sully talked to many people about how to make flying safe and even wrote a book to share his story. He became a hero to many, not just for saving lives but also for making flying safer for everyone.

This story isn’t just about an airplane landing on a river. It’s about how, when things go wrong, thinking clearly and working together can create a miracle. Captain Sully showed the world that even in the most difficult situations, there’s always hope and a way to make things better.

When you have finished, write your time in the box.

Now, go to the next page and answer the questions. **Do NOT look back at the text.**

Now, let's test your understanding of the text with some questions.

1. Who is Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger?
 - A) A hero pilot
 - B) A boat captain
 - C) A firefighter
 - D) A city mayor

2. What event is referred to as the "Miracle on the Hudson"?
 - A) A boat rescue
 - B) An airplane's emergency water landing
 - C) A bridge construction
 - D) A marathon swim

3. When did the "Miracle on the Hudson" occur?
 - A) January 15, 2009
 - B) December 25, 2010
 - C) July 4, 2008
 - D) September 11, 2001

4. What caused the airplane's engines to stop working?
 - A) A lightning strike
 - B) A technical malfunction
 - C) Birds flying into the engines
 - D) Running out of fuel

5. What risky decision did Captain Sully make?
 - A) To fly back to the airport
 - B) To wait for a helicopter rescue
 - C) To parachute everyone to safety
 - D) To land on the Hudson River

6. How many times did Captain Sully check the airplane after landing?
 - A) Once
 - B) Twice
 - C) Three times
 - D) Four times

7. How many people were on board the airplane?
 - A) 175
 - B) 165
 - C) 155
 - D) 145

8. What did Captain Sully credit for the successful outcome?
 - A) A team effort
 - B) Luck
 - C) His own skills
 - D) The calm weather

9. What was the reaction of people watching from nearby buildings?
 - A) Panic
 - B) Disbelief and amazement
 - C) Indifference
 - D) Anger

10. What was a result of the incident in terms of aviation safety?
 - A) No significant changes
 - B) Increased fuel reserves on flights
 - C) New bird migration tracking systems
 - D) Improved safety measures and learning