

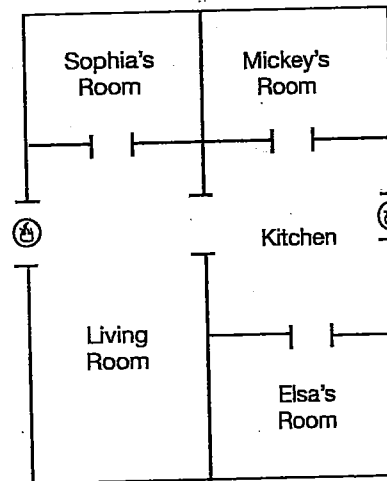
Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Family Times

## Summary

### **Smokejumpers: Life Fighting Fires**

Who responds to the emergency of a wildfire when the fire is in the middle of a forest, far from any roads? Smokejumpers do, that's who! Dropping by parachute from airplanes, these firefighters save humans, trees, and animals, with bravery and a high level of preparedness. The teams use specialized equipment and training in their work. Every year, these heroes are ready to serve people and nature at a moment's notice.



### **Activity**

**Know the Drill** The chances are good that your home has smoke detectors. Your family should come up with a fire drill, a series of actions each of you are to take in case the smoke detector goes off. The plan should identify the exits family members are to use and any necessary actions that need to be taken as you leave your home. A map of the house or apartment building that labels the fire exits should be visible in the home at all times.

## Comprehension Skill

### **Author's Purpose**

The **author's purpose** is the reason or reasons the author has for writing. An author may write to persuade, to inform, to entertain, or to express ideas and feelings.

### **Activity**

**Fireproof Box** Some people and businesses keep very important documents and items in a fireproof safe. Imagine that you have just such a safe, about as big as a microwave oven. Write a persuasive paragraph telling your family what items they should keep in the fireproof safe and why.

## Lesson Vocabulary

### Words to Know

Knowing the meaning of these words is important to reading *Smokejumpers: Life Fighting Fires*. Practice using these words.

### Vocabulary Words

**concentrating** paying close attention

**dedication** the act of giving time and energy to something

**essential** necessary

**method** a way of doing something

**parachute** umbrella-shaped device made of fabric; it allows people to fall slowly from an airplane

**steer** to guide

**underbrush** bushes and small trees growing under large trees

**wind** air that moves

## Conventions

### Adjectives and Articles

**Adjectives** are words that describe persons, places, or things. *For example: smoky; charred; damaged.*

**Proper adjectives** are adjectives made from proper nouns. They are always capitalized. *For example: American, Mexican, English.* **Articles**, special words like *a*, *and* and *the*, come before nouns, and sometimes before adjectives.

### Activity

**Article, Adjective, Noun** Play this game with a family member. Start by having one player name an article. *For example: an.* The next player must quickly name an adjective that agrees with the article. *For example: easy.* Then the first player must quickly say a noun. *For example: game.* Players should say their words as quickly as possible—no stopping to think about your answers allowed! Start again by having the second player name an article. Play several rounds.

## Practice Tested Spelling Words

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