

Full Name: _____

Class: _____

Captain Sully Sullenberger is one of the most celebrated heroes alive, both in the USA and across the world. On January 15 2009, he was responsible for saving the lives of 155 people from imminent death. He succeeded to land a seriously damaged plane into the Hudson River in New York. Everybody on board the plane survived the crash.



In a CBS televised interview with Katie Couric, Sullenberger described what happened less than 2 minutes after the plane took off from LaGuardia Airport: "About 90 seconds after takeoff, I noticed there were birds, too close to avoid. I felt them going into the engines." He said he realized right away that the engines were failing. "I heard the noises. I felt the engine vibrations. And I smelled a burned bird smell coming through the conditioning system of the airplane." The airplane was about 3,000 feet over New York City and descending fast. "Losing thrust on both engines, at a low speed, at a low altitude, over one of the most densely populated areas on the planet. Yes, I knew it was a very challenging situation."



Thirty seconds after the engines failed, Captain Sullenberger began urgently looking for someplace to land and radioed air traffic control. They advised him to turn back to LaGuardia but he couldn't because of the distance to the airport and also the low altitude the plane was taking. "It could well be catastrophic to everyone on board, and persons on the ground." "The only level smooth place sufficiently large to land an airliner was the river," Sullenberger said. The river was to his left, and he contacted air traffic control. "I said, 'We're going in the Hudson.'"



"Did you think about the passengers at that moment?" Couric asked. "My focus at that point was on the landing," he said. "I had to use my training and calm the situation. I saw the river ahead of me. Long, wide with boats at the south end. We were trained to land in the water near other boats to facilitate rescue. That was a good place to go. It just took some concentration."

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/flight-1549-a-routine-takeoff-turns-ugly/>

I. Comprehension (8pts):

A. Circle the best title for the text (1pt):

1. A Heroic Landing. 2. Hudson River. 3. Aircraft.

B. Say if True or False. Justify you answers (3pts):

1. Nobody was hurt in the crash. _____
2. The airplane lost only one of its engines. _____
3. Captain Sullenberger never received training to land in the water. _____

C. Answer the following questions (4pts):

1. How many passengers were there on board the plane? _____
2. How did Captain Sullenberger know that the birds damaged the plane? _____
3. Why did Captain Sullenberger decide not to turn back to LaGuardia? _____
4. What was the main objective of Captain Sullenberger? _____

(8pts)

(3pts):

- B. Circle the right word**

- C. Fill in the blanks from words in the box**

III. Writing

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