

***Reading For Comprehension Series***  
***By Lee Ann Berg***

***Zach's Lie***

By Roland Smith  
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Reading Level 5.0

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Reading For Comprehension Series Bundle  
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## ***Zach's Lie***

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Reading Level 5.0

**Please Note:** Literature Circle Questions are found on pages 214-215. You may wish to use these questions as you read this story.

## **Teacher's Guide**

**Please note:** The first number in parenthesis following a vocabulary word indicates the approximate grade level at which the student should know the definition of the word while the following number indicates the page on which the word was found. (Word grade placement is per *EDL Core Vocabularies in Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies, 1989.*)

The page number of a vocabulary word or the range of page numbers may not correspond to the published text of the book you are using. If that is the case, you will find the vocabulary word and/or the basis for the comprehension questions and answers on pages that are approximately the same as those used in creating this study guide.

And the answers to the comprehension questions are not always written in complete sentences. The answers have sometimes been made in shortened phrases which make the answers easier to find as well as limiting the space needed to give the answers.

## Part One Flight P. 1

**Prediction:** Read only the first sentence on the back cover. What does this one sentence tell you about the story you are about to read?

**Note:** The IF in Commander IF stands for “imaginary friend.”

## Chapter 1 Friday, August 25 Pp. 3-9

**Prediction:** Look at pages 3 and 4. Note the italic font and the regular font. What does this tell you about the way the story has been written, especially on pages 3 and 4?

**Vocabulary List with Definitions** (grade appropriate #, page where word is found) None

### Comprehension Questions

- 1. What was strange about the way Aunt Doris, Uncle Don, Mom and the storyteller and his sister boarded the plane? Pp. 3-4** They went through the cargo area underneath the airport and then onto the plane. Doris and Don were carefully watching the flight attendants and the people who boarded the plane.
- 2. Why did Jack spend six weeks in the hospital? Pp. 4-6** Jack was pretending to be a caped-crusader and leaned too far out his bedroom window. He crashed to the ground and broke both legs.
- 3. What did Jack discover about his father when his father would sometimes sit beside Jack’s hospital bed? Pp. 7-8** Jack’s dad kept a daily journal about his life. Jack asked for a journal too and had so far filled up four notebooks since his caped-crusader days. Jack was busy writing in the 5<sup>th</sup> journal.
- 4. Why was Jack given the name Zach? P. 9** He was given this name because it sounded like Jack in case he slipped up. Jack could claim he said Zach, not Jack.

## **Chapter 2 Monday, July 24 Pp. 10-19**

**Prediction:** What is a flashback? Notice the date of chapter 2. Compare it with chapter one. What is unusual about the two dates and the story?

### **Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)**

**winc**ed (C, 11) to shrink back involuntarily (as from pain); flinch

**warrant** (7, 15) authorization; justification

**negatively** (8, 15) marked by denial, prohibition, or refusal; not positive

### **Comprehension Questions**

- 1. Why did Joanne begin to sob? Pp. 10-11** Jack, Joanne, and Mom had all been awakened from their sleep, bound, gagged and brought to the living room by two ski-masked men. They were all terrified especially Joanne.
- 2. What message was Patricia Osborne (mom) to give her husband when he called her? Pp. 12-13** She was to say they will kill us if you talk.
- 3. What happened as Mom, Joanne and Jack sat at the table until dawn waiting and trying to decide what to do? Pp. 14-15** The police kicked in the doors. The Federal Drug Enforcement Agency, DEA, came to search the Osbornes' house. Mom and the two kids were hand-cuffed, but were released when they promised not to interfere.
- 4. Where did Agent Pelton say Jack's dad was? Pp. 16-17** He had been arrested. The police wanted to know about the wadded strips of duct tape they found. Patricia didn't tell the police about the men coming into the house and holding them hostage during the night.
- 5. What did Agent Pelton say about telling the police everything? Pp. 18-19** The only way to be safe would be to tell the police everything. They can protect the family.

## Chapter 3 Pp. 20-30

**Prediction:** Notice this chapter has no date. What does this tell you about where the story is going as compared to chapter 2?

### Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

**vehemently** (11, 25) marked by strong feeling or expression; passionate

**relevance** (12, 26) bearing on the matter at hand; pertinent

**injustice** (, 26) unfairness; wrong

**benefactor** (10, 27) one that confers a benefit or advantage

**jeopardize** (11, 28) peril; hazard; risk; danger

### Comprehension Questions

- 1. What did June Saunders, the Osbornes' attorney, find out about what had happened to Neil Osborne while Mom, Joanne and Jack caught up on their sleep? Pp. 20-21** She had found nothing good. Agent Pelton would tell them more if Patricia, the mom, would consent to an interview. Also June talked to Neil's attorney.
- 2. What had Neil been arrested for? Pp. 22-23** drug trafficking The Feds had a solid case with photographs, videos, and phone conversations.
- 3. What did Benjamin Bender tell the Osbornes? Pp. 24-25** Neil had retained him to represent them. Jack didn't like Mr. Bender. Bender wanted to know what had been taken from the house. June told Bender the house had been stripped by the police.
- 4. Why did Bender's pleasant expression change? Pp. 26-27** Patricia told him that he wasn't her attorney, that June Saunders was.
- 5. What threw a scare into Patricia? Pp. 28-29** It frightened her that Bender could find the Osbornes so easily. They weren't even registered under their own names in the hotel they were in.
- 6. What alarmed the big drug boss, Alonzo? P. 30** Neil knew Spanish and the address to one of Alonzo's drug warehouses.

**Student's Guide**

## **Part One Flight P. 1**

### **Chapter 1 Friday, August 25 Pp. 3-9**

**Vocabulary** None

#### **Comprehension Questions**

1. What was strange about the way Aunt Doris, Uncle Don, Mom and the storyteller and his sister boarded the plane? Pp. 3-4
2. Why did Jack spend six weeks in the hospital? Pp. 4-6
3. What did Jack discover about his father when his father would sometimes sit beside Jack's hospital bed? Pp. 7-8
4. Why was Jack given the name Zach? P. 9

### **Chapter 2 Monday, July 24 Pp. 10-19**

#### **Vocabulary**

winned (11)

warrant (15)

negatively (15)

#### **Comprehension Questions**

1. Why did Joanne begin to sob? Pp. 10-11
2. What message was Patricia Osborne (mom) to give her husband when he called her? Pp. 12-13
3. What happened as Mom, Joanne and Jack sat at the table until dawn waiting and trying to decide what to do? Pp. 14-15
4. Where did Agent Pelton say Jack's dad was? Pp. 16-17
5. What did Agent Pelton say about telling the police everything? Pp. 18-19

## Chapter 3 Pp. 20-30

### Vocabulary

vehemently (25)

relevance (26)

injustice (26)

benefactor (27)

jeopardize (28)

### Comprehension Questions

1. What did June Saunders, the Osbornes' attorney, find out about what had happened to Neil Osborne while Mom, Joanne and Jack caught up on their sleep? Pp. 20-21
2. What had Neil been arrested for? Pp. 22-23
3. What did Benjamin Bender tell the Osbornes? Pp. 24-25
4. Why did Bender's pleasant expression change? Pp. 26-27
5. What threw a scare into Patricia? Pp. 28-29
6. What alarmed the big drug boss, Alonzo? P. 30



## Chapter 4 Pp. 31-36

### Vocabulary

- paranoid (36)
- surveillance (36)

### Comprehension Questions

1. Why didn't the police record the conversation between Neil and Patricia? Pp. 31-32
2. Why did Neil plan to cooperate with Pelton and the police? Pp. 33-34
3. What surprised Pelton about Bender's visit to the Osbornes's hotel? Pp. 35-36

## Chapter 5 Pp. 37-44

### Vocabulary

- inconspicuous (37)
- decoy (37)

### Comprehension Questions

1. Where did the police and Agent Pelton take the Osbornes when they were secretly taken out of the hotel? Pp. 37-38
2. What were the family members supposed to do at the house? Pp. 39-40
3. What was in the box engraved with the words "Jack in the Box" that Jack went to get? Pp. 41-42
4. How were the Osbornes supposed to let June Saunders know they had reached their destination and let Neil know they are okay? Pp. 43-44

**Student Workbook**

**Part One Flight P. 1**  
**Chapters 1 and 2 Pp. 3-19**

**Vocabulary**

winned (11) \_\_\_\_\_

warrant (15) \_\_\_\_\_

negatively (15) \_\_\_\_\_

**Comprehension Questions**

1. What was strange about the way Aunt Doris, Uncle Don, Mom and the storyteller and his sister boarded the plane? Pp. 3-4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why was Jack given the name Zach? P. 9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why did Joanne begin to sob? Pp. 10-11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Where did Agent Pelton say Jack's dad was? Pp. 16-17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What did Agent Pelton say about telling the police everything? Pp. 18-19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Chapters 3 and 4 Pp. 20-36**

**Vocabulary**

vehemently (25) \_\_\_\_\_

relevance (26) \_\_\_\_\_

jeopardize (28) \_\_\_\_\_

**Comprehension Questions**

1. What had Neil been arrested for? Pp. 22-23 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did Benjamin Bender tell the Osbornes? Pp. 24-25 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why did Bender's pleasant expression change? Pp. 26-27 \_\_\_\_\_

4. What threw a scare into Patricia? Pp. 28-29 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Why did Neil plan to cooperate with Pelton and the police? Pp. 33-34 \_\_\_\_\_

6. What surprised Pelton about Bender's visit to the Osbornes's hotel? Pp. 35-36 \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapters 5 and 6 Pp. 37-58

### Vocabulary

decoy (37) \_\_\_\_\_

legitimate (51) \_\_\_\_\_

precarious (57) \_\_\_\_\_

### Comprehension Questions

1. Where did the police and Agent Pelton take the Osbornes when they secretly left the hotel? Pp. 37-38 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What were the family members supposed to do at the house? Pp. 39-40 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What was in the box engraved with the words "Jack in the Box" that Jack went to get? Pp. 41-42 \_\_\_\_\_

4. How were the Osbornes supposed to let June Saunders know they were okay? Pp. 43-44 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Why did Neil get involved with the drug cartel? Pp. 49-50 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Where did the Osbornes resettle? Pp. 53-54 \_\_\_\_\_

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And the answers to the comprehension questions are not always written in complete sentences. The answers have sometimes been made in shortened phrases which make the answers easier to find as well as limiting the space needed to give the answers.

**Part One Flight P. 1**  
**Chapters 1 and 2 Pp. 3-19**

**Vocabulary List with Definitions** (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

- winc**ed ( , 11) to shrink back involuntarily (as from pain); flinch
- warrant** (7, 15) authorization; justification
- negatively** (8, 15) marked by denial, prohibition, or refusal; not positive

**Comprehension Questions**

1. **What was strange about the way Aunt Doris, Uncle Don, Mom and the storyteller and his sister boarded the plane? Pp. 3-4** They went through the cargo area underneath the airport and then onto the plane. Doris and Don were carefully watching the flight attendants and the people who boarded the plane.
2. **Why was Jack given the name Zach? P. 9** He was given this name because it sounded like Jack in case he slipped up. Jack could claim he said Zach, not Jack.
3. **Why did Joanne begin to sob? Pp. 10-11** Jack, Joanne, and Mom had all been awakened from their sleep, bound, gagged and brought to the living room by two ski-masked men. They were all terrified especially Joanne.
4. **Where did Agent Pelton say Jack's dad was? Pp. 16-17** He had been arrested. The police wanted to know about the wadded strips of duct tape they found. Patricia didn't tell the police about the men coming into the house and holding them hostage during the night.
5. **What did Agent Pelton say about telling the police everything? Pp. 18-19** The only way to be safe would be to tell the police everything. Then they can protect the family.

## Chapters 3 and 4 Pp. 20-36

### Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

**vehemently** (11, 25) marked by strong feeling or expression; passionate

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**jeopardize** (11, 28) peril; hazard; risk; danger

### Comprehension Questions

- 1. What had Neil been arrested for? Pp. 22-23** drug trafficking The Feds had a solid case with photographs, videos, and phone conversations.
- 2. What did Benjamin Bender tell the Osbornes? Pp. 24-25** Neil had retained him to represent them. Jack didn't like Mr. Bender. Bender wanted to know what had been taken from the house.
- 3. Why did Bender's pleasant expression change? Pp. 26-27** Patricia told him that he wasn't her attorney, that June Saunders was.
- 4. What threw a scare into Patricia? Pp. 28-29** It frightened her that Bender could find the Osbornes so easily. They weren't even registered under their own names.
- 5. Why did Neil plan to cooperate with Pelton and the police? Pp. 33-34** Patricia and the kids would be put into the Witness Security Program with new identities.
- 6. What surprised Pelton about Bender's visit to the Osbornes's hotel? Pp. 35-36** Pelton thought Patricia had called Bender to talk with him. Pelton was surprised that Bender knew where the Osbornes were after the police had been so careful.



## Chapters 5 and 6 Pp. 37-58

### Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

decoy (7, 37) to lure by; entice

legitimate (9, 51) genuine, lawful

precarious (11, 57) sensitive, tricky, unstable

### Comprehension Questions

- 1. Where did the police and Agent Pelton take the Osbornes when they secretly left the hotel? Pp. 37-38** They were surprised to find themselves back at their own garage. They were to be relocated into the Witness Security Program.
- 2. What were the family members supposed to do at the house? Pp. 39-40** They were to pack the things and tag whatever they wanted to take with them to their new location. They would never come back and could not contact any friends or family.
- 3. What was in the box engraved with the words “Jack in the Box” that Jack went to get? Pp. 41-42** The private journals Jack and Neil had finished were in the box.
- 4. How were the Osbornes supposed to let June Saunders know they were okay? Pp. 43-44** They would send June a postcard of a space shuttle coming in for a landing with nothing written on the card.
- 5. Why did Neil get involved with the drug cartel? Pp. 49-50** His debts from his airlines company forced him to sell part of the business to Alonzo Aznar. Alonzo bailed him out, and Neil sold him part of the company.
- 6. Where did the Osbornes resettle? Pp. 53-54** They settled in Elko, Nevada, in the Nevada mountains. There were short, brown, ragged rocks with a landscape that looked like Mars with a desert climate.

*Key Questions*

*Zach's Lie*

Answer in sentences

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. What did Jack discover about his father when his father would sometimes sit beside Jack's hospital bed?  
Pp. 7-8

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2. Why did Neil plan to cooperate with Agent Pelton and the police? Pp. 33-34

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3. What was Mrs. "Granger's" new job? Pp. 55-56

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4. What seemed to bother Mr. Dugan, his P.E. teacher, after he admitted Zach to class? Pp. 79-80

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5. What bet did Zach and Darrell make? Pp. 102-103

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*Key Questions Answer Key*

**Zach's Lie KEY**

Answer in sentences.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. What did Jack discover about his father when his father would sometimes sit beside Jack's hospital bed?  
Pp. 7-8

**Jack's dad kept a daily journal about his life.**

2. Why did Neil plan to cooperate with Agent Pelton and the police? Pp. 33-34

**Patricia and the kids would be put into the Witness Security Program with new identities.**

3. What was Mrs. "Granger's" new job? Pp. 55-56

**She would open a bookstore.**

4. What seemed to bother Mr. Dugan, his P.E. teacher, after he admitted Zach to class? Pp. 79-80

**Zach was tall, and Mr. Dugan thought that Zach should play basketball.**

5. What bet did Zach and Darrell make? Pp. 102-103

**The bet was that Zach's mom would find out about Zach's fight with Peter before Friday.**

# Vocabulary Worksheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Use the following blanks to list and define vocabulary words chosen from the included word list.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Comprehension Worksheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Answer five comprehension questions in complete sentences.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Vocabulary and Comprehension Worksheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Use the following blanks to list and define vocabulary words chosen from the word list.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer three comprehension questions in complete sentences.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_