

# 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. 14  
Soon he was stuck in the ditch. He did the right thing by staying with his car. People who leave 34  
their car can get lost. They can become exhausted and overcome by the cold. Walking in a storm 52  
is very **dangerous**.

While he was waiting for help, he shoveled the snow away from the tail pipe of his car. A 55  
blocked tail pipe causes deadly fumes of carbon monoxide to back up inside of a car. Joe was now 74  
ready to start the engine and warm the car. Joe was glad he had just filled his gas tank. It could 93  
take a long time for help to arrive. 114

Joe was also glad he had prepared a winter storm survival kit for his car. He had a warm 122  
blanket. (A sleeping bag is another **option**.) He also had these items in a box he kept in his trunk: 141

161 First aid kit                      Booster cables                      Flashlight with extra batteries

170 Knife                                  Paper Towels                      Tool kit

175 Ice scraper                          Small snow shovel                      Snowbrush

181 Candy bars – or other high calorie foods that won't spoil

191 Small can and water proof matches to melt snow for drinking water

203 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 222  
with himself. He had made good decisions and was well prepared. He had stayed warm and safe. 239

## 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?

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