

# Tangerine

## Prologue

### VOCABULARY

**hysterically** – in a very upset manner  
**predator** – one who destroys or devours  
**receding** – growing smaller  
**snarling** – growling  
**swiveled** – turned

1. Paul's mother worries that she has not left her former home in good enough condition for the new owners. What does this suggest about her?

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2. List the members of the Fisher family.

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3. Where are the Fishers coming from? Where are they moving?

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4. Summarize the memory Paul has about the black metal mailbox.

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5. List one example each of a simile, a metaphor, and personification.

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**Part One****Friday, August 18****VOCABULARY****aligned** – lined up**billowing** – puffing, blowing**convoy** – a line of cars**destination** – a place of arrival**exposure** – attention**horizontally** – in a sideways line**hurtling** – moving quickly**industrial** – characterized by factories**vertically** – lined up from top to bottom**wrought iron** – a commercial form of iron used design

1. Paul describes the move from Texas to Florida as a military operation. What does he mean by this description?  
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2. Paul notices several farms as he and his mother travel on Route 27 in Florida. Why does Paul's mother tell him that tangerines are probably not grown there anymore?  
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3. As Paul and his mother exit Route 27, they notice thick, black smoke. What is causing it?  
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4. Describe Paul's new house.  
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5. Paul's father remarks that he is glad his boss will let him set his own hours at work. Why does this please him?

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6. Paul refers to the Erik Fisher Football Dream. Describe what he means by this.

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7. Paul says he feels a surge of anger when he finds Erik's trophies in his room. Why do you think Paul feels this way?

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**Saturday, August 19**

## VOCABULARY

**groped** – searched blindly**illuminated** – lit up**lignite** – brownish-black coal**muck fire** – a fire that burns underground, fueled by lignite**resumed** – started again**smolder** – to burn without flame**relentlessly** – without stopping**vow** – to promise

1. Paul awakens during a thunderstorm, but goes back to sleep. When he awakens again, he smells smoke. What does he do?

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2. How long does it take the fire engine to arrive?

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3. What does Wayne tell Paul and Mrs. Fisher about the smoke?

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4. What causes the muck fire to never go out?

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5. What is Mrs. Fisher's reaction to this news?

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Saturday, August 19, later

## VOCABULARY

**accuracy** – in a manner free from error

**exploits** – deeds or acts

**koi** – a Japanese carp found in decorative ponds

**placekicker** – the player on a football team who kicks field goals, extra points, and kickoffs

**retention** – the act of holding in place

**sod** – grass that is laid down, not grown from seed

1. In this section of the novel, Paul's mother makes him reset the time on countless appliances in the house after a brief power outage. Earlier, she wanted to force the fireman to put out the muck fire. Before that, she became irritated that boxes labeled "dining room" had been placed in the kitchen. What do these events suggest about Mrs. Fisher's personality?

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2. During his bike ride, Paul notices that there are only four styles of house in Lake Windsor Downs: the Lancaster, the York, the Stuart, and the Tudor. He sees workers slapping squares of sod onto a sandy lot. He sees a fancy-looking guardhouse that is empty except for "a dirty ashtray and a wastebasket full of soda cans." Based on these observations, what do you think is Paul's opinion of his new neighborhood?

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3. Who is Mr. Costello, and what is he doing at the Fisher's house?

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4. What do Mr. Costello and Mike tell the Fishers about Lake Windsor High football?

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5. As the backup quarterback, what position will Mike spend the most time playing?

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6. How does Erik react when Mike suggests that sometimes they will fake the kick, and Mike will run or pass the ball instead?

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7. How does Paul describe Mike?

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**Monday, August 21**

VOCABULARY

**adjoining** – connected  
**anticipated** – expected  
**cathedrals** – large churches with high ceilings  
**constitutes** – makes up  
**devoted** – given to

1. What three changes does Paul say he is thinking about while trying to fall asleep? What is it about himself he is wondering?

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2. How does Paul respond when his father refers to Wayne as “some jerk kid...who doesn’t know what he’s doing”?

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3. Why do you think Paul’s father is so angry with Wayne?

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4. While unpacking, Paul’s mother refers to some of her belongings as being “just not Florida.” What does Paul suspect about his mother at this moment?

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5. Paul and his mother take a trip to the middle school. Describe what they see as they approach Seagull Way.

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6. What does Mrs. Gates tell Paul and his mother about the portable classrooms?
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7. After a brief introduction, Mrs. Gates asks Mrs. Fisher why they are at the school. What does Mrs. Fisher tell her?
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- \_\_\_\_\_
8. Why is Paul angry with his mother for telling Mrs. Gates about his eyesight?
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9. Summarize what Mrs. Gates says about the lack of an auditorium and a gym.
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10. Mrs. Fisher is not impressed by the portables. What issue does she bring up to Mrs. Gates regarding the portables?
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11. What question does Paul ask Mrs. Gates at the end of the tour, and how does she respond?
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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
12. Why does Paul step out of Mrs. Gates's office?
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13. As they are leaving, what startles Paul and Mrs. Fisher?

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14. What does Paul mean when he says that he bets he and his mother are thinking the same thing?

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**Wednesday, August 23**

VOCABULARY

**calisthenics** – light exercises  
**osprey** – a large hawk that eats fish  
**sympathetically** – in a caring manner

1. When Mr. Fisher tells Coach Warner the story about his experience at Ohio State, why does Paul refer to it as a tragedy he does not understand?

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2. Explain how Erik came to be a placekicker.

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3. Paul remarks that Mr. Fisher did not seem interested in Erik's athletic pursuits until he "started getting good." What does this imply about Mr. Fisher?

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4. Summarize what Paul says about why people in the past might have been happy with Tangerine's rainy weather.

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5. Paul meets a few middle school soccer players, including Joey Costello. What does Paul discover about these players? How do you predict this discovery might help or hinder Paul?

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**Monday, August 28**

## VOCABULARY

**abandoned** – empty  
**enthusiasm** – excitement  
**genuinely** – in a real, down-to-earth manner  
**impaired** – damaged  
**scowling** – having an angry facial expression  
**slouching** – stooping or bending; not standing up straight  
**suffocate** – to be prevented from breathing  
**torque** – force or power

1. Summarize Paul's memory of his first day of kindergarten.  
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2. Paul says that he is "living proof that you shouldn't look at an eclipse or you'll go blind." What other myths does Paul reference during this section of the novel?  
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3. Joey feels bad for his brother, Mike, saying that Mike is "getting a bad break." Explain Mike's predicament.  
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4. Paul describes Mrs. Hoffman as being "at the other end of the teacher food chain as Ms. Alvarez." What is the difference between Ms. Alvarez and Mrs. Hoffman?  
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5. Why is Paul sent to Mr. Murrow's office?

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6. Explain Paul's vague answer when Kerri asks about the accident that damaged Paul's vision.

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**Wednesday, August 30**

VOCABULARY

**benefactor** – a supporter

**crouching** – bending or lowering the body

**materializing** – coming into existence

1. Who are Arthur, Paige, and Tina?

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2. Why is Arthur's Land Cruiser "jacked up"?

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3. What does Paul describe as "strange" about his brother?

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4. Based on information from Joey—that Arthur has never played in a single game—what does Paul predict about Erik and Arthur's friendship?

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**Thursday, August 31**

## VOCABULARY

**bombarded** – attacked or ravaged

**exaggerating** – describing in a way that adds false details

**intact** – in place

**investment** – a source of money

**irregularities** – things that do not seem right

**lugged** – dragged

**master sergeant** – a non-commissioned, high-ranking U.S. armed forces officer

**regulation** – a rule

**shantytown** – a poor section of town

1. Describe Mrs. Fisher's parents.

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2. What is Mrs. Fisher's position in the Homeowners' Association?

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3. Why does Mrs. Fisher say she takes her job seriously?

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4. According to Paul, why will Mr. Donnelly's house continue to be struck by lightning?

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**Friday, September 1**

## VOCABULARY

**hefted** – lifted**walloping** – kicking hard**penalty shot** – an unhindered shot at the goal as punishment for a foul**raspy** – rough-sounding**retrieved** – got back**samurai** – a Japanese warrior**wilting** – drooping

1. In Paul's opinion, why are students tired by the end of the day?  
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2. Paraphrase what Joey tells Paul at practice about Gino and Tommy. What are Paul's impressions of the players?  
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3. Explain Coach Walski's policy about away games.  
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4. Describe what happens when Paul defends the goal against Gino's penalty shot.  
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**Tuesday, September 5**

VOCABULARY

**intrude** – to barge in  
**singed** – burned  
**solemnly** – seriously

1. What shocking news does Erik tell Paul and Mrs. Fisher?

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2. Describe what Erik says—and how he says it—about Joey's reaction to Mike's death.

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3. Later, Paul sees Erik and Arthur on the patio. Why are they laughing?

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4. Paul asks himself, "How could this happen to Mike Costello?" What answer does he come up with?

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**Wednesday, September 6**

## VOCABULARY

colossal – huge  
deliberately – with purpose  
scrimmage – a practice game

1. The football practice following Mike Costello's death seems strange to Paul. Why?

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2. Why are Mr. and Mrs. Fisher arguing?

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3. Paul tries to empathize with Joey by wondering how he would feel if Erik died. What does Paul say about how he would feel? Do Paul's feelings surprise you? Why or why not?

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Thursday, September 7

## VOCABULARY

**campaign** – an attack or crusade

**halt** – stop

**rigid** – stiff

1. Paul's mother asks Coach Warner to stop afternoon football practices due to the danger of the storms. What does Coach Warner say to her to explain why he cannot change the practice time?

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2. What information from the *Tangerine Times* does Mrs. Fisher share with Coach Warner?

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3. How does Coach Warner respond to the newspaper information?

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4. Mrs. Fisher suggests that the students practice early in the morning before school starts. What problem does this idea pose?

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5. After much debate between Mrs. Fisher and Coach Warner, Mr. Donnelly stands up to speak. What is his opinion?

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6. Nothing is resolved by the end of the meeting. What is the mood at the Fisher house after everyone leaves?

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**Friday, September 8**

## VOCABULARY

**clutching** – holding tightly

**dwell** – to think about or focus on

**eligible** – allowed to participate

**heart murmur** – an extra or unusual heartbeat that can indicate illness or a malformation

**hernia** – a condition in which part of an organ protrudes through the wall of the cavity that contains it

**justify** – prove to be reasonable

1. What explanation does Coach Walski give for Paul's eligibility?

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2. What is Paul's reaction to the news that he cannot play soccer?

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3. Why does Paul blame his mother for his dismissal from the soccer team?

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4. Explain Paul's saying to himself, "There goes another one of your koi, Mr. Costello."

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5. How does Paul's mother express her regret over Paul's dismissal from the soccer team?

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**Friday, September 8, later**

## VOCABULARY

**diameter** – the distance across**rosary** – a string of beads used during prayer

1. Why does Paul get a “scared feeling in the pit of [his] stomach” as he arrives at Mike Costello’s viewing?

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2. What does Joey suggest when Paul tells him about not being able to play soccer?

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3. Why is Joey going to the carnival?

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4. While Joey’s explanation might be true, what could be another reason why his mother wants him to go to the carnival?

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5. Explain Paul’s thoughts about his response to Kerri Gardner’s comment. How might this event be an example of foreshadowing?

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**Saturday, September 9**

## VOCABULARY

**affliction** – disability**Fraulein** – the German word for a young, unmarried woman**hustled** – hurried**prowled** – moved as if stalking prey**turnstile** – a post at an entrance that allows only one person to enter at a time

1. Why are Mr. and Mrs. Fisher arguing about Erik's practice this morning?  
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2. The route to the carnival is unexplored territory for Paul. What does Joey tell Paul and Mrs. Fisher about the town of Tangerine?  
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3. Who do Joey and Paul see as soon as they arrive at the carnival? What happens during the encounter?  
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4. Why does Joey quickly hustle Paul away from the boys?  
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5. Why might Paul be interested in the freak show "Wonders of the World"?  
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6. Paul spends so much time at "Wonders of the World" that he loses his friends. Who does he see when he finally exits the exhibit?

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7. Paul, Joey, and Mrs. Fisher all see the Tangerine Middle soccer players leaving the carnival. What upsets Mrs. Fisher?

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8. At the end of the chapter, Paul feels miserable about himself. Why?

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9. What new exhibits does Paul envision as he rides away from the carnival?

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**Monday, September 11**

## VOCABULARY

**affidavits** – sworn statements given to the police  
**bucket brigade** – a chain of people working toward a common goal  
**chaos** – confusion or disorganization  
**commotion** – a noisy confusion  
**disintegrating** – falling apart  
**sinkhole** – a hollow place in the ground where drainage collects  
**testifying** – making a statement in court under oath  
**trudging** – marching steadily but with effort  
**vandalized** – damaged  
**vaulting** – leaping  
**wail** – to cry loudly

1. Why are the boys called to Mr. Murrow's office?

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2. Who does Paul say vandalized the exhibit?

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3. Why is Paul concerned about having told on the Tangerine Middle boys?

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4. What does Paul find out about Kerri Gardner?

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5. What first causes teachers to open the doors to their portable classrooms and look outside?
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6. Suddenly kids are screaming and jumping out of the portables. It is unclear at first what the cause of the commotion is. What has happened?
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7. What happens to Portables 16, 20, and 21?
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8. What heroic actions do Paul and Joey perform to help their classmates?
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- \_\_\_\_\_
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9. Who takes Paul's glasses and wipes them clean?
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- \_\_\_\_\_
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10. What does Gino tell Paul about bending the rules?
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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
11. Summarize Mrs. Gates's announcement regarding injured and uninjured students.
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12. What disturbing news does Joey tell Paul about some of their schoolmates?

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**Monday, September 11, later**

## VOCABULARY

**agitated** – highly annoyed**cavern** – a large cave**massive** – huge**observation** – close watch

1. Why does Paul refer to himself as surprised?

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2. Why does Mr. Fisher come home angry and agitated?

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3. Why does Paul “feel good about today”?

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4. Although his heroic actions helped him feel brave, what does Paul say he still fears?

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**Tuesday, September 12**

VOCABULARY

**certified** – officially declared  
**commission** – working order  
**condemned** – deemed not safe  
**hastily** – quickly  
**radius** – the distance from the center to the edge  
**relocation** – a move to a new place  
**structurally** – relating to the way something is built

1. Why does Paul refer to himself as shocked?

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2. Why does Paul comment that Erik has just lost half his audience?

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**Thursday, September 14**

## VOCABULARY

**developers** – businesspeople who buy land and build on it for resale

**era** – an important and lengthy time period

**inspector** – a person in charge of making sure buildings are safe

**permit** – a legal document that grants permission

**skybox** – a private and expensive seating area in an arena

1. Explain how Mr. Fisher is named Director of Civil Engineering for Tangerine County so quickly.

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2. According to *Eyewitness News*, where did Charley Burns's money come from?

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3. What does Paul's father promise the commissioner?

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**Friday, September 15**

## VOCABULARY

**coincidence** – two or more events that accidentally happen at the same time

**conjunction** – together

**contractors** – builders hired for a specific job

**elated** – very happy

**ominously** – in a threatening manner

**premature** – early

**stabilized** – steady and safe

1. What does Paul say he and his family have been expecting to hear about the relocation plan, and what do they actually hear at the meeting?

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2. Paul comments that his father has been very stressed out by the sinkhole fiasco. What message does Mr. Fisher give all the magazines and television producers who have been calling?

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3. How long does Mrs. Gates say it will take to repair the school?

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4. If repairs are going to take a considerable amount of time, how are students going to be able to attend school so soon?

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5. What is the other option for seventh graders? Explain why Paul believes it is a miracle.

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6. When Paul comments that his father doesn't pay attention to him, Mr. Fisher responds by saying, "Maybe during football season I'm more wrapped up with what Erik's doing." What has Mr. Fisher overlooked that Paul quickly points out?

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