

REAL-LIFE DISASTERS: BOOK CLUB KIT



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Real-life Disasters by Susan Martineau, illustrated by Vicky Barker
For readers aged 8 to 12 years

SUMMARY:

A gripping read made up of the thrilling and horrifying stories behind natural and human-made disasters. Each story comes with a disaster dossier packed with information that will help you investigate what really happened.

Read the 11 stories, listed opposite, to find out what happened and then study the evidence gathered and presented by Susan Martineau and Vicky Barker. Did you know their first title in this series, *Real-life Mysteries*, won the Blue Peter Book Award in 2018 for 'Best Book with Facts'?

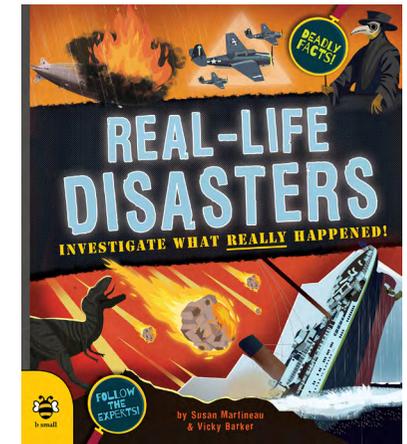
DISCUSSION STARTER:

This book is all about things that have gone disastrously wrong! Sometimes when things go wrong it's a good chance to learn something new. What's mistakes have you made recently that you have learned something useful from?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is an eye witness? Can you trust eye witness statements?
2. How could more lives have been saved from the Titanic? Is there more than one answer?
3. Which theory is the most believable to explain the disappearing planes in the Bermuda Triangle?
4. If Airship R101 had not crashed do you think this form of transport would be popular now?
5. Compare the Black Death with COVID-19. What might experts learn today that will help people in the future?
6. How does this book help you with your critical literacy skills? And why are these skills important?

1. The Unsinkable Ship
2. Shaking Planet
3. Dino Disaster
4. The Treacherous Triangle
5. Inferno at Sea
6. Fireball!
7. Wild Weather
8. The Wrecked City
9. The Killer Lakes
10. Mega-eruption!
11. Deadly Disease



Real-life Disasters

written by Susan Martineau,
illustrated by Vicky Barker

TRUE FACTS ACTIVITY:

Understanding what really happened is important but to get the truth you have to be a true facts detective.

Research some eye witness statements from a disaster you are interested in. Write some false statements. See if your book club can tell which ones are real.