

**Today, you will read a story titled “Blizzard.” As you read, think about the actions of the characters, events, and language of the writing. Answer the questions to help you write an essay.**

Read the story titled “Blizzard” by Anne W. Phillips. Then answer Questions 1 through 4.

Read the abridged version of the fiction book *Blizzard!* Then answer questions 1 through 3.

Abridged version of  
***Blizzard!***

by Anne W. Phillips

1 "Mom, we don't need snow pants," Ellie insisted. "It's warm out."  
2 "Look at the calendar, Ellie," Mother said. "It's December 3, 1940. It's almost winter, and it's a long walk home if the weather turns bad. Don't be so stubborn, Eleanor."

3 Ellie pulled on her boots and stomped out of the farmhouse behind her little brother Abel. Her mother was always telling Ellie that she was too stubborn. She frowned all the way to school.

4 Later, rain fell. It turn to ice and pinged on the windows. Then fat, wet snowflakes tumbled from the sky. At lunchtime, the teacher announced, "A bad storm is headed our way."

5 Ellie collected Abel from his class. She bundled them both into hats and mittens and boots and snow pants. By the time they reached the bend in the road, the snow was almost to the top of Abel's boots.

6 "I'm so cold," he whimpered. Ellie wrapped Abel's scarf tighter. She plodded on, pulling Abel behind her.

7 The snow fell faster, making the air white. Ellie almost missed the corner where they turned. She had never seen a storm come on so fast.

8 "Ellie, I'm tired," Abel wailed. "I want to go home."

9 Ellie was tired, too. Should they stop to rest, just for a minute? No! She had heard about people who fell asleep in the snow and never woke up. Mother said she was stubborn. Well, now she would be stubborn!

10 "Come on. I'll carry you," she told her brother. Abel was little, but he was heavy. What if darkness came while they were wandering in the snow?

11 "Let's play a game," she said. "You count the steps . . . one, two, three. . ."

12 Abel counted. Step by step, Ellie pushed against wind that sucked her breath away.

13 *Whump!* She ran into something. Abel slipped from her arms. She put out her hands to see what she had hit. A fence. Was it their neighbor's fence?



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14 Ellie lifted Abel onto one hip, felt for the fence with numb fingers, and trudged  
along. What if she was following the fence the wrong way?

15 Something shone and vanished just as the fence turned a corner. A light!  
Should she let go of the fence and follow it? What if it was just headlights on a  
road? She'd never find the fence again. She and Abel could wander in the storm  
until they froze.

16 The light flickered again through the curtains of snow. Ellie hugged Abel closer  
and let go of the fence, leaning against the wind. She was counting steps, one  
stubborn step after another, into the howling white.

17 Now the light shone through a window. A window in a door. Her very own  
front door. Ellie and Abel fell inside.

18 "Thank goodness!" Mother cried. "You made it!"

19 "I helped!" Abel said. "I counted."

20 Ellie nodded. Then she burst into tears. She had brought them safely,  
stubbornly, home.

## 1. Part A

What does **flickered** mean as it is used in Paragraph 16 of “Blizzard?”

- a. shined
- b. blinked
- c. bright
- d. reflected

## Part B

Which statement **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- a. “now the light shone through a window.”
- b. “What if it was just headlights on a road?”
- c. “something shone and vanished just as the fence turned a corner”
- d. “...into the howling white.”

## 2. Part A

In Paragraph 1, Ellie doesn’t want to wear snow pants because

- a. It is warm outside
- b. She hates the color
- c. They are uncomfortable
- d. She wants to wear a skirt

## Part B

Which detail from “Blizzard” supports the answer to Part A?

- a. “look at the calendar, Ellie.”
- b. “Ellie was tired”
- c. “it’s a long walk home.”
- d. “Don’t be so stubborn, Eleanor”

### 3. Part A

Which of these words BEST describes how Ellie feels when she gets home?

- a. angry
- b. relieved
- c. carefree
- d. unhappy

## Part B

Which detail from the story **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- a. “then she burst into tears”
- b. “she stomped out of the farmhouse.”
- c. “She frowned all the way to school”
- d. “Let’s play a game.”



A blank sheet of lined paper with 20 horizontal lines, suitable for writing or drawing.