

# Instructional Overview

**Book Club**

**I Survived the Great Chicago Fire, 1871**  
By: Lauren Tarshis  
Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: R

**Instructional Focus for Fiction:**  
Sequence of Events (including flashbacks; major/minor conflicts and resolution)

**Instructional Focus for Nonfiction (Informational Text):**  
Charts and Maps

**Background:**  
Sequence of events refers to the order in which events occur in text. A standard plot is developed through the following series of events:

- conflict
- rising action
- climax
- resolution

Instructional Focus



Description of the Instructional Focus



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**Instructional Overview:**

**Meeting #1**  
Set Expectations for Book Club  
Introduce Facts About Fires and Tracking Sequence Of Events (Chapter 1)

**Meeting #2** (Chapters 2 – 4)  
Sequence of Events and Flashbacks

**Meeting #3** (Chapters 5 – 8)  
Sorting Out the Sequence of Events in a Story

**Meeting #4** (Chapters 9 – 12)  
Major and Minor Conflicts in the Sequence of Events

**Meeting #5** (Chapters 13 – 15)  
Climax and Resolution as Part of a Sequence Of Events in Fiction

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List of Book Club Meetings and the Instructional Focus for Each Meeting



List of Materials and Preparation



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**Materials and Preparation:**

- Determine which students will participate in *the I Survived the Great Chicago Fire, 1871* Book Club (4-6 students)
- Gather copies of *I Survived the Great Chicago Fire, 1871* by Lauren Tarshis (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Book Club Calendar (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Expectations for Book Club (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Book Club Reading Response Board (1 per student)
- Prepare Reader's Notebooks (1 per student)
  - These may be spiral notebooks or several sheets of lined paper stapled together, or bound in a folder.
- Story Line Graph (1 per student)
- Prepare Tracking Sequence of Events (1 per student)
- Prepare Event Mix Up handout (1 per student)
- Prepare The Great Chicago Fire Map and Facts (1 per student)
- Optional: Prepare Student Self-Evaluation Forms (1 per student per meeting)
- Optional: Prepare Assessment Resources (1 set per student)

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