

1995

Cooney, Caroline B. *Flight #116 Is Down!* Scholastic, 1992.

SUMMARY:

A 747 crashes onto the family property of wealthy teen Heidi Landseth. Her experiences and those of a handful of young passengers, their families, and the rescue workers who come to the scene of the disaster are related. The vivid descriptions, suspense, and emotions draw the reader into the lives of the characters.

QUESTIONS:

How and why does Heidi change because of the plane crash? How is her opinion of herself altered?

Patrick wishes that a real emergency would happen, and, when it does, how does it change him?

What are some of the different responses that people have at the disaster site?

Where are Donald and Tuck going? What are their feelings about this at the start of the trip and at the end?

What lies does Darienne tell the news reporter? Why do you think she does this?

Compare and contrast Carly and Shirl.

What is the purpose of Teddie's quarter? What role does it play at the end of the story?

What is the Golden Hour and why is it so important?

What is triage, and what are the Disaster tags?

What could you do if you would be the first person to arrive at the site of an accident?

JOURNAL STARTERS:

I learned about the fallacy of judging a person by appearance when I met. . .

I think that people rush to the scene of an accident because. . .

ACTIVITIES:

Interview a certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). Ask for specifics about training and if there are age requirements for the job. Ask the EMT to speak to your class.

Research an airplane crash. What information and statistics are available? Is there any information available about the people who were involved?

Learn about how airport and airline procedures have changed since the writing of this book.

Make a chart of the characters. What do they have in common? In what ways do they differ?

Learn about the procedures airlines have for children traveling without their parents.

INTEREST LEVELS: Grades 5-8

BOOK TALK:

“The noise began. Noise like an electric guitar stuck on one note, while the acoustics engineer turned the volume up, and up, and up, and up. A thrumming single note that sucked in the world....Her scream she could feel in her throat but not hear; she was deaf; the entire world was screaming.” (p. 47)

Just moments before, seventeen-year-old Heidi Landseth had been walking her dog near her home. Now she sees the mangled sections of a 747 that has crashed nearby and a broken-off wing that is engulfed in flames. She sees the injured and hears their cries for help, and she thinks about how alone she is and how worthless she feels. “Anxiety seized her chest so painfully that Heidi almost thought she, too, was wounded. What do I do now? Where do I go? I have to do the right thing!” (p. 52)

This disaster changes forever the lives of everyone involved: Heidi, the passengers and their families, and the rescue workers.

READ-ALIKES:

Cooney, Caroline B. *Emergency Room*. Scholastic, 1994.

Cooney, Caroline B. *Flash Fire*. Scholastic, 1996.

Duncan, Lois. *I Know What You Did Last Summer*. Random House, 1999.

Kehret, Peg *Earthquake Terror*. Penguin 1998.

Paulson, Gary. *Hatchet*. Atheneum, 1987.

Ruckman, Ivy *Night of the Twisters*. HarperCollins, 1986.

RELATED WEB SITES:

Kidsread.com - Caroline Cooney: <http://www.kidsreads.com/authors/au-cooney-caroline.asp>

Teenreads.com: Caroline B. Cooney:

<http://www.teenreads.com/authors/au-cooney-caroline.asp>

Literature Circle Activity: <http://www.wetheteachers.com/viewfiles.php?fid=1715>

OTHER RECOGNITION:

Winner of a Children’s Choice Award in each of the following states:

Maryland, 1995; Nebraska, 1994; Nevada, 1995; Oklahoma, 1995; Virginia, 1995;

Washington, 1995.