

# EVERYBODY'S BABY

## 1. Understanding the Main Idea

Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. This story is about
  - a. a day care center in Texas
  - b. the rescue of a little girl
  - c. drilling wells
2. This story has a happy ending because
  - a. Jessica was very young.
  - b. Jessica was in the well only two days
  - c. the men rescued Jessica.



## 2. Vocabulary Word

A. 3 (n.) day care center

B. \_\_\_ (n.) well

C. \_\_\_ (v.) to rescue

D. \_\_\_ (adj.) narrow

E. \_\_\_ (n.) tunnel

F. \_\_\_ (n.) paramedic

G. \_\_\_ (adj.) injured

H. \_\_\_ (n.) rescuer

## 2. Vocabulary Meaning

1. a person whose job is to help people who are sick or injured, but who is not a doctor or a nurse
2. physically hurt; having an injury
3. a place where small children are cared for while their parents are at work
4. to save somebody or something from a dangerous or harmful situation
5. a person who saves somebody or something from a dangerous or harmful situation
6. long and not wide : small from one side to the other side
7. a way that goes under the ground, through a hill, etc.
8. a deep hole in the ground. we can get water here.

### 3. Understanding Details

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Read the sentences. One word in each sentence is not correct. Find the word and cross it out. Write the correct word. (3 minutes)

1. Jessica McClure was <sup>months</sup> 18 years old.
2. A well was in the kitchen of the day care center.
3. When Jessica fell, she fell right into the water.
4. Jessica's mother ran to the phone and wrote 911.
5. The men said, "We're going to drill a cover next to the well."
6. The men had a difficult job; they were drilling through soft rock.
7. At 8 P.M. on Friday, men reached Jessica and brought her down the well.
8. The paramedics rushed her to the restaurant.
9. A doctor at the hospital said, "Jessica is lucky she's very old."
10. After Jessica's rescue, a worker made a metal rock for the well.

### 4. Discussion Questions

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1. Did you go to a day care center? Was it a safe place?
  - ♦ How could the day care in the story have been safer?
2. Have you ever had a serious injury or been in an accident?
3. Have you been rescued or have you ever seen someone rescued?
  - ♦ What happened and who helped?
4. Have your community ever come together to help one person?
5. If this story was in your country, would it be different or the same? How?

At a day care center in Texas, children were playing outside. One of the children was Jessica McClure. She was 18 months old. Jessica's mother, who worked at the day care center, was watching the children. Suddenly Jessica fell and disappeared. Jessica's mother screamed and ran to her.

A well was in the yard of the day care center. The well was only eight inches across, and a rock always covered it. But children had moved the rock. When Jessica fell, she fell right into the well.

Jessica's mother reached inside the well, but she couldn't feel Jessica. She ran to a phone and dialed 911 for help.

Men from the fire department arrived. They discovered that Jessica was about 20 feet down in the well. For the next hour the men talked and planned Jessica's rescue. Then they told Jessica's parents their plan.

"We can't go down into the well," they said. "It's too narrow. So, we're going to drill a hole next to the well. We'll drill down about 20 feet. Then we'll drill a tunnel across to Jessica. When we reach her, we'll bring her through the tunnel. Then we'll bring her up through the hole."

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The men began to drill the hole at 11 A.M. on Wednesday, October 14, 1987. The men had a difficult job; they were drilling through solid rock. Two days later, on Friday morning, the men were still drilling. And Jessica McClure was still in the well. During her days in the well, Jessica sometimes called for her mother. Sometimes she slept, and sometimes she cried, and sometimes she sang.

All over the world, people waited for news about Jessica. They read about her in newspapers and watched her rescue on TV. Everyone worried about the little girl in the well.

At 8 P.M. on Friday, October 16, men reached Jessica and brought her up from the well. Two paramedics rushed her to the hospital. Jessica was dirty, hungry, thirsty, and tired. Her foot and forehead were badly injured. But Jessica was alive. A doctor at the hospital said, "Jessica is lucky she is very young. She's not going to remember this very well."

Maybe Jessica will not remember her day in the well. But her parents, her rescuers, and many other people around the world will not forget them.

After Jessica's rescue, one of the rescuers made a metal cover for the well. On the cover he wrote, "To Jessica, with love from all of us."

