Storm Runners by Roland Smith

1. (1-10) At the end of page 10, the author says, “Chase believed that Tomas went to church for the same reason he had left everything behind to join Chase’s father. Tomas was loyal.” Why does Chase believe Tomas is loyal? What characteristics would you use to describe Chase and his father?
2. (11-31) What is Chase’s dad’s real job? Does this job change your opinion of him? How has the tragedy in his life (like losing his wife and daughter and getting struck by lightning) changed him? How has it impacted his relationship with Chase?
3. (31-55) How would you feel about moving around all the time like Chase? Would you be okay with registering yourself in a new school? How do you think Chase feels seeing his dad on TV like that?
4. (56-65) Chase’s “gut barometer” told him they would all be safer staying at the middle school than getting on the bus to go home. Have you ever had a time when you had a gut feeling about something that you couldn’t really explain? What would you do if your friend had this gut feeling he couldn’t ignore, but everyone else disagreed with him or her?
5. (66-87) Wow. Chase’s gut barometer was definitely right! Each of the characters, Chase, Rashawn, and Nichole, has special skills that can help all of them survive. Whose skills do you think will be most beneficial? What special skills do you have that would help you survive a disaster?
6. (88-99) A person you feel bound to protect has just been blown off the road into raging, alligator infested water. What do you do?
7. (100-117) Different people have different perspectives of Hurricane Emily. What does each person or group of people stand to gain or lose by this storm? Think about Chase, Nichole, and Rashawn; John and Tomas; Cindy and Mark, the reporters; and Richard, the newscaster.
8. (118-136) Chase’s dad always tells him, *Save yourself. You’re no good to anybody if you’re dead…including yourself*. What does this mean? Has Chase been following this advice?
9. (137-143 end) What do you think is going to happen next? Have Chase and his friends survived the storm, or is the worst yet to come?