Ready for Surprises

Saving can help with an unexpected cost.

SS.4.FL.6.4 "Discuss that one method to cope with unexpected losses is to save for emergencies."

NAME ______________________ DATE ____________

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the unexpected loss in paragraph 3, then circle the words that show how emergency savings helped Jalen cope.

Money Set Aside

1 Unexpected losses can change a family's plans. A bike may need a repair, a pet may need a vet visit, or a storm may break a window. These costs can come without warning. When people do not have money set aside, they may need to give up another purchase or borrow money to pay the bill.

2 Saving for emergencies is one way to cope with a surprise loss. An emergency fund is money saved for costs that are not planned. A family might save a small amount from each allowance, paycheck, or gift. The money stays available right away for a real need, rather than being spent on treats or everyday wants.

3 Jalen keeps part of his birthday money in a jar labeled Emergency Fund. He wants a new game, but he leaves the saved money alone. Later, his backpack zipper breaks, and the repair costs $12. Jalen uses money from the jar to pay for the repair. His emergency savings helps him handle the unexpected cost without borrowing money.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Name two unexpected losses from the first paragraph.

2. What is an emergency fund?

3. Why might a family save small amounts from an allowance, paycheck, or gift?

4. How did Jalen's emergency savings help him cope with the broken zipper?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a different unexpected loss. Write two sentences that explain how a person could use emergency savings to cope with it.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the unexpected loss in paragraph 3, then circle the words that show how emergency savings helped Jalen cope. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two unexpected losses from the first paragraph.	**Any two: a bike repair, a pet's vet visit, or a broken window after a storm.**
2	What is an emergency fund?	**Money saved for costs that are not planned.**
3	Why might a family save small amounts from an allowance, paycheck, or gift?	**They can build emergency savings to use when an unexpected cost happens.**
4	How did Jalen's emergency savings help him cope with the broken zipper?	**He used money from his emergency fund to pay for the repair without borrowing money.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Mina has $15 in emergency savings when her lunch box breaks. She uses the saved money to replace it instead of borrowing money.

Accept any realistic unexpected loss and a clear explanation that saved emergency money is used to handle the cost. The response should show that saving ahead can reduce the need to borrow or give up another planned purchase.