

Passage 1

Directions: Read the following article and answer the questions that follow.

A Strange Twist of Fate

by T. Curran

1 In an odd twist of fate, a N.Y. teenager managed to save the life of a woman who had saved his life 7 years before.

3 In 1999, 10 year old Kevin Stephan was helping out at his younger brother's Little League game. A player, who was warming up on the sidelines, suddenly swung a bat, accidentally hitting Kevin directly in the chest. In a split second, Kevin passed out. The blow had stopped his heart.

8 Fortunately, as soon as she saw that Kevin Stephan was hurt, Penny Brown hurried to his aid. Brown, a nurse whose son was on the team, managed to revive the 10 year old.

"I started C.P.R. and he came back," Brown said.

12 The boy was lucky that Brown was a spectator that day. The Stephan family later learned that Penny Brown had been scheduled to work, but was given the day off at the last minute.

15 Fast forward to 2006, when Kevin Stephan would have a chance to return Brown's favor. Penny Brown was eating lunch at the Hillview Restaurant in Depew, N.Y., when she began to choke on her food. Restaurant patrons nearby began to call for someone to help her.

19 Kevin Stephan was working in the kitchen as a dishwasher when he heard restaurant employees calling for help.

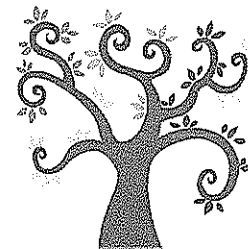
21 "They knew I was a volunteer firefighter, so they called me over," Stephan said.

23 He rushed out of the kitchen and successfully performed the Heimlich maneuver on the stricken woman.

25 Initially, the two heroes didn't recognize one another, but when Kevin's mother pointed out the strange coincidence they were both astonished as well as grateful.

28 Brown later said, "The fact that the same two individuals helped each other out in a dire situation is pretty extraordinary."

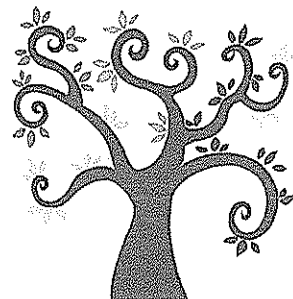
30 Stephan and Brown were both honored at a ceremony sponsored by the Red Cross, an organization that promotes health and provides emergency assistance and education.



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Directions: Use *A Strange Twist of Fate* to answer the following questions.

- Which statement best reflects the main idea of the article?
 - A young man saves the life of a woman who saved his life.
 - A young man is fortunate that a nurse is present when he is injured.
 - Two people meet again under unusual circumstances.
 - It is important to save someone's life.
- Why does the author include lines 12-14 in the article?
 - to show that it is important to take time off work
 - to warn people that medical personnel should be at baseball games
 - to emphasize just how fortunate Kevin Stephan was
 - to persuade people to attend sporting events instead of working
- Which of the following words is closest in meaning to *warming?* (line 4)
 - becoming friendly
 - entertaining an audience before a performance
 - heating
 - preparing for a game
- How does the information in lines 21-22 help to develop the article?
 - It explains why Kevin Stephan was called to help.
 - It describes how people can learn the Heimlich maneuver.
 - It explains how Kevin Stephan is a professional firefighter.
 - It emphasizes the importance of volunteering.
- The Red Cross can use the story of Stephan and Brown to encourage people to
 - chew carefully.
 - be cautious while around baseball bats.
 - help others when needed.
 - learn lifesaving techniques like C.P.R . and the Heimlich maneuver.



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Directions: Use *A Strange Twist of Fate* to answer the following short response questions.

11. Write a brief summary of the events that connect Kevin Stephan and Penny Brown.

12. Why is the title, *A Strange Twist of Fate*, a good title for the first passage? What is *Twist of Fate* referring to? Use two details from the passage to support your response.

