

## Tyler's Ride and Tantrum <sup>1</sup>

This is a story about a little boy and his grandfather who loves him very much and wants him to grow up to be a farmer.

### Instructions

Get together with two or three of your friends. Then read the story and answer the questions that appear in the story.

Mark your answers on the answer sheet by circling T for "True" and F for "False" for each item. Please don't mark in the problem booklet. After you have selected your answer to a question, discuss your choice with your friends. Then continue reading the story while answering and discussing the questions.

When you finish the story, ask the instructor for a copy of the answer key. Compare your answers to the answer key, but don't change your answers. Discuss the story and answers with your friends and the instructor. When you finish, complete the questionnaire attached to the answer sheet. Give this problem booklet and your completed answer sheet to the instructor. Your answers will be used to improve the exercise.

Thanks!

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<sup>1</sup> Initially developed June 1997 by Carol J. Lehtola, Kari Button, and Vickie Brandt at a three-day workshop titled "Translating Injury Surveillance Data into Health and Safety Educational Materials and Activities for Farm Families" conducted at the University of Kentucky. The exercise was revised and completed by Henry Cole, Kari Button, and Vickie Brandt at a second University of Kentucky workshop on February 4-6, 1998. The work was supported by CDC/NIOSH Cooperative Agreements U07/CCU408035-05-2 and 06-1 and U06/CCU412900-01, -02 and -03 to the University of Kentucky, Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention. The views expressed in this document are those of the authors and not necessarily those of CDC/NIOSH or the US Government.

**Tyler's Family Tradition**

Tyler, age four, is visiting his grandfather's grain and cattle farm, which has been in the family for 100 years. When they come to visit, the grandchildren take turns riding with Grandpa on his favorite old tractor. Tyler's dad also rode on the tractor as a child. The family members believe this tradition has taught strong work ethics and good tractor-driving skills and has helped build a close-knit family. Tyler loves to ride on the tractor with his grandfather, just like his daddy did when he was little.

The large, 56-hp tricycle tractor has a flat floor in the operator's compartment that comes within 6 inches of the fenders. The fenders cover the sides but not the tops of the rear wheels.

**Tyler Begs for a Ride**

It is 5:00 P.M. Tyler missed his nap, and he's a little cranky. When he hears the tractor start up, he runs out of the house and says, "Grandpa, Grandpa! Can I ride? Can I ride?"

Grandpa says, "Sure, you can ride with me. I was just on my way to take some hay to the cows in the pasture. Let's go tell Grandma where we're going and when we'll be back."

Grandpa and Tyler go into the kitchen. Grandpa says, "Tyler and I are taking some hay to the cows. We'll be back for supper in about 30 minutes."

Tyler's mom says, "I don't want him riding on the tractor."

Tyler's dad says, "I rode on the tractor when I was two. How else is he going to learn?"

Grandpa says, "He'll be OK. We'll be careful."

Mom says, "OK. Do be careful!" Then she helps Grandma make supper.

Turn the page and begin.

Work a page at a time.

Don't jump ahead, but you can look back anytime you want.

Question A

Grandpa and Tyler load 12 square hay bales on the 3-point hitch platform on the back of the tractor. Then Grandpa stands Tyler on the operator's platform on the tractor beside the seat and says, "Grab on to the fender and the seat and hang on tight." Then they head for the pasture. (Look at Figure 1 on the next page.)

What things can happen to Tyler as he rides with Grandpa? (For each item, circle T or F on the answer sheet.)

- T   F   1. The tractor could overturn.
- T   F   2. Tyler could be thrown off the tractor.
- T   F   3. Tyler could grab the steering wheel and cause the tractor to go out of control.
- T   F   4. Tyler could fall asleep, fall off, and be run over.
- T   F   5. As they enter and drive in the pasture, the cows could bump each other and the tractor and knock Tyler off.

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[After you have marked your answer sheet please continue with the story.]

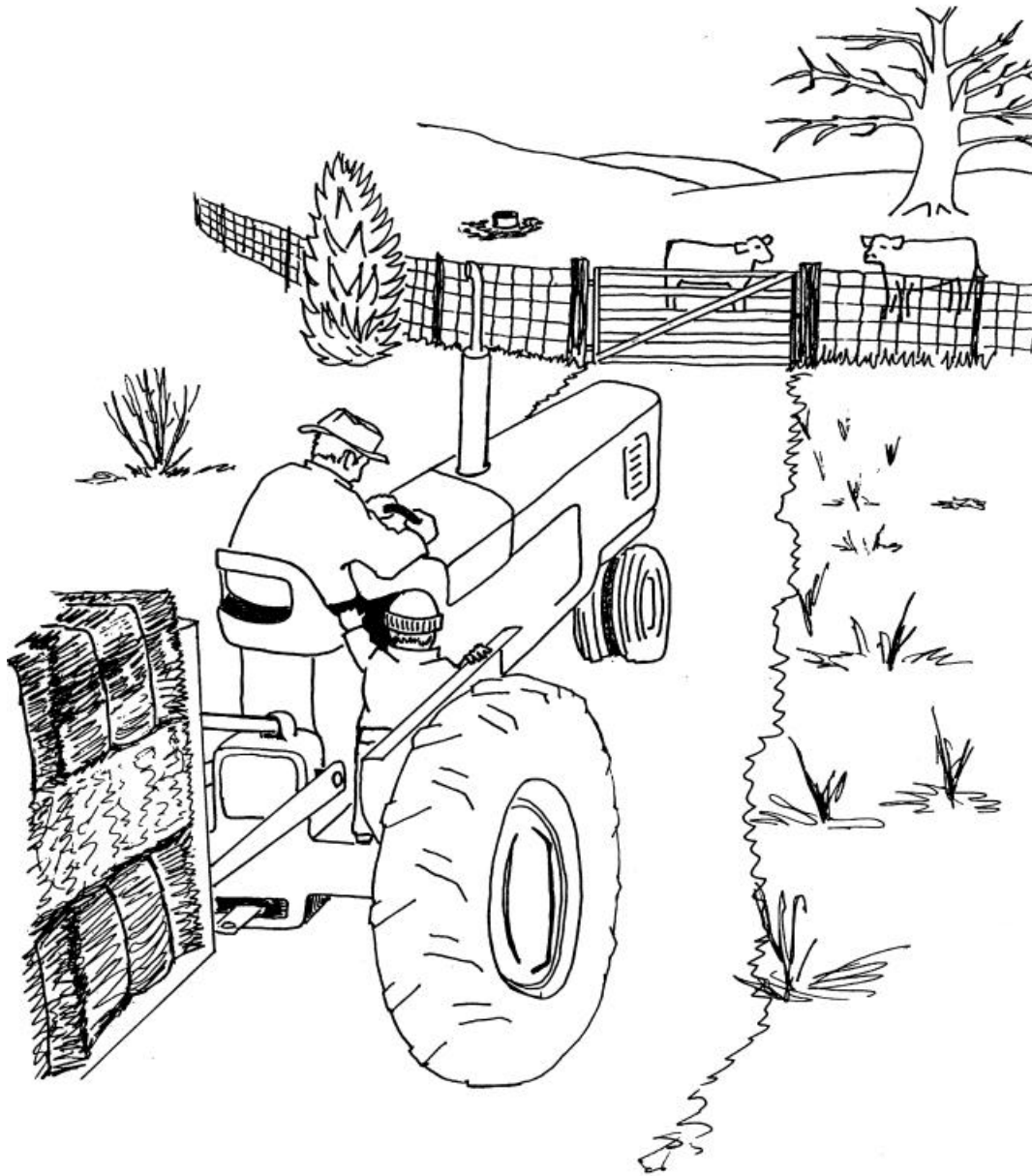


Figure 1: Grandpa and Tyler take hay to the cows in the pasture

Question B

Grandpa stops the tractor at the gate to the pasture. He sets the brake and leaves the tractor running. He says, “Tyler, stay where you are and don’t touch anything. I’ve got to open the gate.”

Then Grandpa gets off the tractor, opens the gate, and tries to keep the cows from getting out. After he chases the cows out of the way, Grandpa gets back on the tractor and drives through the gate. Then he stops, gets off the tractor again and closes the gate.

What dangers are there as Grandpa gets off and on the tractor to open and close the pasture gate? (For each item, circle T or F on the answer sheet.)

- T   F   6. Because Tyler has ridden on the tractor before and because Grandpa told him to stay put and not to mess with the controls, there is no real danger for him or Grandpa.
- T   F   7. Tyler could be hurt trying to get off the tractor to help Grandpa.
- T   F   8. Tyler could play with and release the brake and the tractor could roll ahead.
- T   F   9. Tyler could play with the controls and shift the tractor into gear and run over Grandpa.
- T   F   10. Tyler could climb into the driver’s seat, play with the controls, and end up on a runaway tractor.

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[After you have marked your answer sheet please continue with the story.]

Question C

As Grandpa gets the tractor through the gate, Tyler is a good boy and stays on the tractor as he was told and doesn't touch anything. Grandpa drives a few hundred yards into the pasture. Then he stops, sets the brake, leaves the engine running, gets off, and puts out three bales of hay. Then he gets back on the tractor, drives ahead 80 to 100 feet, and repeats this process until all the bales have been put out.

Grandpa shuts the tractor off. He lifts Tyler down and they walk around the pasture to check on a few cows and watch them eat. Grandpa says, "Tyler, we're running late and it looks like rain."

Tyler runs back to the tractor, climbs up, and leans on the fender.

Grandpa says. "We gotta hurry. Get off that fender and get up here in my lap." Then he lifts Tyler into his lap.

How safe is Tyler now that he is riding in Grandpa's lap instead of hanging on to the fender? (For each item, circle T or F on the answer sheet.)

- T   F   11. Tyler is safe because his grandfather can hold him tight and keep him from falling off.
- T   F   12. Tyler is still at risk of falling off, getting run over, and being killed.

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[After you have marked your answer sheet please continue with the story.]

Question D

Thirty-five minutes have passed. Mom is worried about Tyler riding on the tractor. She decides to take the pickup truck and go get him. When she gets to the pasture, she finds Grandpa with Tyler sitting in his lap on the tractor, just inside the pasture gate. She says, "Tyler, get down from there and come home with me."

When she tries to lift Tyler off the tractor, he screams, kicks, and yells, "Ain't going! Ain't going!"

What should Mom do now? (For each item, circle T or F on the answer sheet.)

- T   F   13. Take Tyler off the tractor, put him in the truck, and take him home.
- T   F   14. Try to reason with Tyler and explain the dangers of riding on the tractor.
- T   F   15. Ask Grandpa to tell Tyler to get off the tractor.
- T   F   16. If Tyler won't get off, get up on the tractor and ride along with him a little longer before making him go home with her.
- T   F   17. Give in and let Tyler ride home with Grandpa, because they are done feeding the cows and it is only a short ride home.

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[ After you have marked your answer sheet, please continue with the story.]

**Grandpa Agrees with Mom**

Grandpa says, “Son, you must mind your Momma. Do as she says, and go home with her.” Then he passes Tyler down to Mom and she takes him home in the truck. The boy cries and fusses all the way home. When they get home, Tyler quiets down and starts playing with his toy tractors in the living room.

**Later That Evening**

Later that evening after supper Grandpa says, “Tyler, it’s a good thing your Momma brought you home. It was late, and I had to hurry. I couldn’t have watched out for you. I remember one time when your Daddy almost fell off the tractor when I was hurrying.”

**The Next Morning**

The next morning the whole family is sitting at the breakfast table. Mom says, “Oh dear! Look at this article in the morning paper!”

## **Boy, 4, dies in fall under tractor <sup>2</sup>**

A 4-year-old Dawson County child died Sunday when he fell from his grandfather’s lap and underneath the rear wheel of a farm tractor.

Alex Benson, son of Jason and Amy Benson of Dawson County, was pronounced dead at about 6:00 p.m. at Blakemore Community Hospital.

“He was a sweet boy,” said Alex’s aunt Hazel Brown of Blakemore Center. “He was a happy child. He loved tractors. They were the love his life.”

“This is the worst thing you can imagine,” said Hazel. “We can hardly bear it.”

Alex, who had red hair and loved to play outdoors, had traveled with his parents to visit his grandparents, Tom and Susie Benson.

“Somehow the boy slipped and fell off his grandfather’s lap, and before the grandfather could get it stopped, the tractor ran over the child,” said Gerald Peterson of the Dawson County Rescue Squad. The case has been ruled an accident.

Each year, about 170 people under the age of 18 die on US farms.

<sup>2</sup> This is a true story. The incident happened in November 1991 in a southern state. The names of people and places have been changed out of respect for the family members.

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[ After you have read this page please continue with the story.]



Question E

You have read this story about Tyler and his family. You have also read the newspaper clipping Tyler's family saw. Now think about this question.

What usually happens when a child dies in a second-rider incident like the one in the newspaper clipping?

- T F 18. The adults involved suffer terrible emotional pain for years to come.
- T F 19. The family is charged with child abuse and neglect.
- T F 20. In many cases the family stops farming and moves away.
- T F 21. After a year or two, there are few long-term consequences from such events, although the sad memories will always remain.

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[After you have marked your answer sheet, please continue with the story.]

### How Tyler's Family Tradition Changed

Tyler's parents and grandparents saw the article in the newspaper about little Alex Benson. Later they learned more about all the bad things that happened to the Benson family over the next two years. (The child's parents disowned and sued the grandparents. Alex's parents divorced. The grandparents lost their farm.) Tyler's family decided not to let their children and grandchildren be second riders on tractors anymore. They thought that the risks and costs were too great.

Tyler continued to grow and farm. When he was about 14, his dad and granddad taught him to drive tractors. Now, 25 years later, Tyler runs the family farm. He doesn't allow second riders on his tractors.

### Question F (About You and Your Family)

Think about Tyler's story, the newspaper clipping, and your own experiences with children as second riders on tractors.

(Mark each of the statements that follow T if they are true for you, or F if they are false for you.)

- T    F    22. As a child I was often a second rider on a tractor.
- T    F    23. As an adult tractor driver, I sometimes allow children as second riders.
- T    F    24. As an adult tractor driver, I often have children beg to ride with me.
- T    F    25. I worry about children riding on tractors and don't want them to get hurt.
- T    F    26. I never allow child second riders when I'm driving a tractor.

### End of the Story

Please make sure you mark your answers on the answer sheet and complete the attached questionnaire.

Ask the instructor for a copy of the Answer Key. Compare your ideas and answers to the Answer Key. Discuss any ideas and differences of opinion. But please don't change any of your answers on the answer sheet. Give your completed answer sheet and questionnaire to the instructor. Thanks! Your answers will help improve the exercise.

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[Please complete the questionnaire attached to your answer sheet.]