

Read. Think. Explain.

In this activity, you'll answer a series of questions about "What Happened to Dolly?" that will help you think more deeply about the devastating effects of polio in early 20th-century America and why the author was motivated to write about one lucky girl who survived against all odds.

Directions: Answer the questions below, using information and details from the article to back up your ideas. Use a separate piece of paper if you need more room.

1. Where and when was the first polio epidemic? How did surrounding areas respond? Why?

2. What is the cause of polio? What are its possible effects? Who was most at risk?

3. Referring to both the text and the pictures, what were some treatments for polio? How do you think the treatments made people feel about the disease?

4. What motivated the author to write this story?

5. Why is it difficult for the author to find out what has happened to Dolly? Do you think she will eventually find out? Why or why not?
