EMERGENCY CHOPPER



A REAL-LIFE EMERGENCY callout

John Parsons

Nelson Literacy Directions

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EMERGENCY Chopper



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The author finds out how it feels to ride in a flying ambulance. They fly at speeds of up to 220 kilometres per hour!



2 An Emergency Pilot page 8

Meet Quentin, an emergency chopper pilot. He has wanted to fly helicopters since he was a boy.



3 An Emergency Procedure page 12

Quentin explains what happens during an emergency. Every minute counts when you are saving someone's life.

4 An Emergency Paramedic page 16

Wayne is a paramedic. His job is to help save lives in helicopter emergencies. Wayne works in road ambulances, too.



5 A Real-Life Emergency Call-Out page 20

Quentin and Wayne are called out to a real-life emergency … in the middle of the author's information report!



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HISTORY FEATURE

Helicopter Flight Firsts

The first piloted helicopter was invented in 1907, but its flight was not successful. By 1940, the first successful helicopter was invented by Igor Sikorsky.

Igor's Story

As a ten-year-old boy, Igor built planes out of paper and bamboo. He also built a toy helicopter with paper blades and thin pieces of rubber.

In 1908, he read about Orville and Wilbur Wright and their success flying the first plane. Then he decided to study flight.



Igor Sikorsky (1889–1972)

Helicopter Firsts for Igor

In 1941, Igor's helicopters won all the world records for helicopter flight.

In 1958, Igor's company invented the world's first helicopter that could land and take off from water.

HELICOPTER

"Helicopter" is made up of two words: "helico" (which means spiral) and "pter" (which means wings).

Social Studies and History

Young Helicopter Pilot Breaks Records

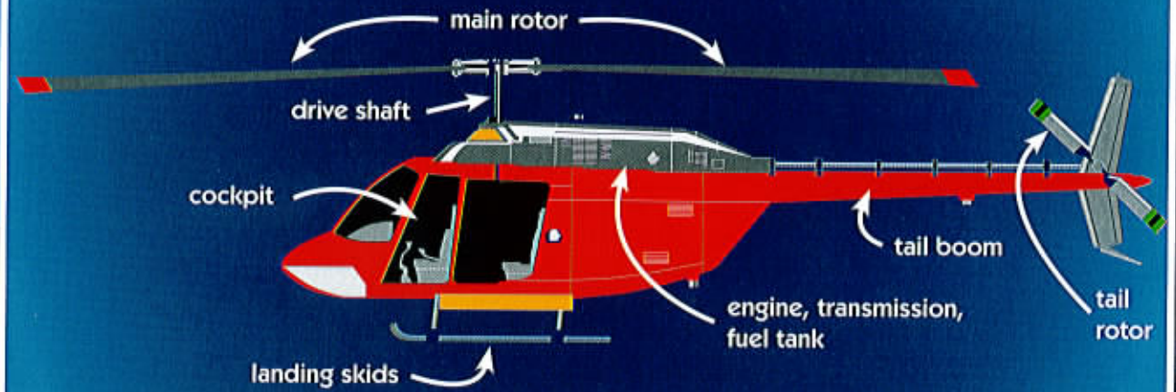
In 2006 in the USA, 14-year-old Jonathan Strickland became the youngest person to:

- *fly a helicopter solo*
- *fly a helicopter and an aeroplane solo on the same day*
- *fly a helicopter internationally (from the USA to Canada and back).*



Jonathan Strickland

HELICOPTER PARTS



1 An Emergency Rescue

TEXT TYPE
Chapters 1–5
Information Report

A Flying Ambulance Comes!

This flying ambulance has no sirens. There are no flashing lights or blaring horns. Yet it speeds towards an emergency at over 220 kilometres per hour.

Rotors Roar

Instead of a siren, there is the sound of helicopter rotors. They slash through the air at hundreds of revolutions per minute.

The roar of the engines and the pulse of the rotors make the air vibrate. This seems to increase as they begin to drop towards the rescue site.





"Hotel Juliet Charlie, over"

Ready for Action

Inside, the emergency paramedics crouch, ready for action.

With barely a bump, the pilot lands this very heavy helicopter. It's another emergency, another day, and another mission for "Hotel Juliet Charlie". That's the call sign for this life-saving helicopter.

Language and Communication

ABC: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie Alphabet

Many people spell out words over the phone or by radio, using the NATO Phonetic Alphabet. For example, if someone says they live in "Smyth Street", it may sound like "Smith Street". But no mistakes can be made if it is spelt out:

"Sierra" for "s", "Mike" for "m", "Yankee" for "y", "Tango" for "t", "Hotel" for "h".

The NATO Phonetic Alphabet

A: Alpha	N: November
B: Bravo	O: Oscar
C: Charlie	P: Papa
D: Delta	Q: Quebec
E: Echo	R: Romeo
F: Foxtrot	S: Sierra
G: Golf	T: Tango
H: Hotel	U: Uniform
I: India	V: Victor
J: Juliet	W: Whisky
K: Kilo	X: X-ray
L: Lima	Y: Yankee
M: Mike	Z: Zulu



pilots communicating by radio

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2 An Emergency Pilot



The Author Meets **Quentin**

I met the emergency helicopter pilot of "Hotel Juliet Charlie", Quentin. He works from a helicopter base in New Zealand. He has been flying helicopters for 20 years.

As a child, Quentin was interested in flying aircraft. But then he got a weekend job working with helicopters. He knew that was what he wanted to do.



Quentin

In Training

First, Quentin trained as an aeroplane pilot. Then he learnt how to fly helicopters.

"They're quite different from planes to fly," explains Quentin. He had to fly helicopters for 150 hours before he got his helicopter licence.



the dials in a helicopter cockpit

An Experienced Pilot

Now, Quentin is an experienced pilot. He is able to fly his emergency helicopter into difficult and dangerous places. He can go where people need to be rescued or helped.

Technology

Warning Technology

New technology warns helicopter ambulances if they fly close to obstacles, such as mountains or tall antennas.



a helicopter flying near mountains

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