

Unit 7, Reading and critical thinking, exercise 4

When storm Harvey came to Texas, it destroyed houses and roads. About 30 000 people left their homes before the storm, but others stayed. They didn't have drinking water or electricity, and they couldn't go outside because the streets were like rivers! In those difficult times, the brave Texan people helped each other, and many ordinary citizens became local heroes.

Among them were four teenage boys. 17-year-old Thomas Edwards and his friends, Richard, 17, Liam, 17 and his brother Declan, 15.

The boys spent hours rescuing their neighbours.

Thomas told journalists that he woke up that morning and saw houses under water. His car was under water too, but luckily, he had a small fishing boat. He rang his friends and they decided to go out in the boat.

They began to look for people and take them to a safe place. Sometimes they heard calls for help. Other times, neighbours gave them addresses, or directions to the homes of family and friends.

For several hours, the boys worked alone, going from house to house. Later, they helped police officers and rescue services. In total, they saved at least 50 people, and even more pets. 'We rescued families, babies, dogs, rabbits,' said Thomas.

A photographer for a local newspaper saw the boys, and he posted photos of them on social media. People wrote comments, calling them heroes. Later, the boys said they didn't do it because they wanted to be heroes. They just wanted to help.

For us, they are true local heroes!