

QUARTER 3 – THE THEME OF SURVIVAL

UNIT PREVIEW

This quarter's literature unit will explore the limits of the human body, the human spirit, and the human mind.

Before discussing any selection in this thematic unit, answer the following question in your notes—

Which is the most important trait for survival—physical strength or sheer determination/will?

DEFINITION

Understanding the definition of survival is essential for this literature study. In your notes, write the following chart—

Definition of survival:

Examples of survival:

1.

2.

3.

Synonyms of survival:

DEFINITION

Survival means to remain alive, to endure or live through a hardship.

Think of three examples where people might have to fight to survive. List those three situations on your chart.

Finally, think of at least two synonyms for the word “survive.”

CATEGORIES OF SURVIVAL

Through this literary study, we will explore several categories of survival—

- Survival of the Human Spirit
 - Survival and the Strength of Character
 - Survival and the Concept of Duty and Honor
 - Survival and the Fight for Love
 - Survival and the Will to Live
 - Survival and the Love for Family
 - Survival of a Species
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PREVIEWING THE UNIT

This thematic unit will include all three genres of literature—fiction, informational, and poetry.

Our anchor text this quarter is *Within Reach--My Everest Story*, the autobiography of Mark Pfetzer, who at that time was the youngest person to attempt to reach the summit of the world's tallest mountain. Little did he know he would be there for the worst disaster in Everest's climbing history.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jilrXC8-FRo>

Our anchor film is *Cinderella Man*, the true story of American boxer Jim Braddock and his struggle to help his family survive during the Great Depression.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DlbHzcH4VJY>

FINAL THOUGHTS AS WE BEGIN...

Just how far would you be willing to go in order to survive?

In your notes, jot down some ideas that relate to risks you would take in order to survive and stay alive.
