

Stories of courage and strength

1st EdPlus English Assignment 2022-23

Read the stories, answer the questions, submit before Sept. 4nd 6PM

Angela Hernandez



In July 2018, Angela Hernandez was driving near Big Sur down Highway 1, headed to Southern California in her SUV, when a small animal crossed the road. Hernandez swerved to miss it, and in doing so, shot her SUV off the road and

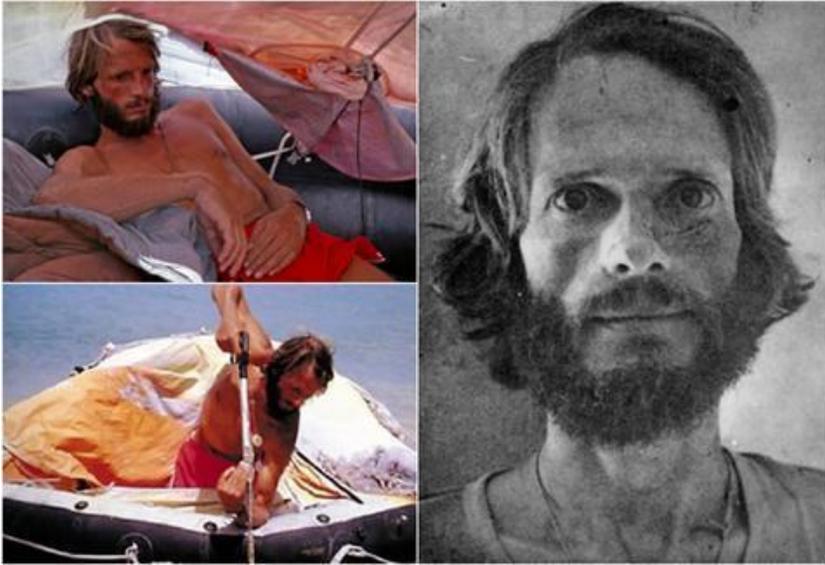
off a cliff, tumbling about 200 feet to a desolate, rocky beach.

She had a brain hemorrhage, fractured ribs, broken collar bone, ruptured blood vessels in both eyes, and a collapsed lung, but she didn't die. When she came to, water lapped over her knees. She broke her window with a multitool, crawled out the window, swam to the beach, and passed out.

When she came to again, she had no shoes and was understandably banged up, but began walking to the shore for help. She used a hose from her car to collect dripping water from moss along the shore. She walked for days. Up above she could see cars pass by atop the cliff, but they couldn't see her or hear her screams.

It wasn't until a few hikers scouting the beach for fishing spots stumbled across her wrecked Jeep and scoured the beach until they found Hernandez crumpled up sleeping on some rocks. They gave her water and called for help. Eventually, rescuers used ropes to descend the cliff and evacuate Hernandez to a hospital, ending her seven-day ordeal.

Steven Callahan



After successfully sailing across the Atlantic solo in his 6.5-meter sloop, Steven Callahan started the trip home in January of 1981. The storm around his boat one evening didn't concern him, but the hole a whale or shark put in his boat's hull in the middle of the night

amid the storm surely did.

As the boat began to sink, Callahan repeatedly dove back into the sinking ship to grab survival gear. With food and water for a few days, Callahan clambered into his six-foot circular raft, adrift, 800 miles West of the Canaries and heading farther from them at every moment. Callahan fished with a spear gun and made water with a solar still. On day 14, he signaled to a passing ship, but it kept on passing.

After a month, he drifted out of shipping lanes. By day 50, he was covered in sores from the salt water, struggling with dehydration in the tropical waters, and struggling to patch a hole in his raft. Exhausted, and after losing a third of his body weight, Callahan was finally spotted by some fisherman off the coast of Guadeloupe as birds and fish circled his raft, foraging the fish guts he tossed back into the sea. He'd been adrift for 76 days.

Juliane Koepcke



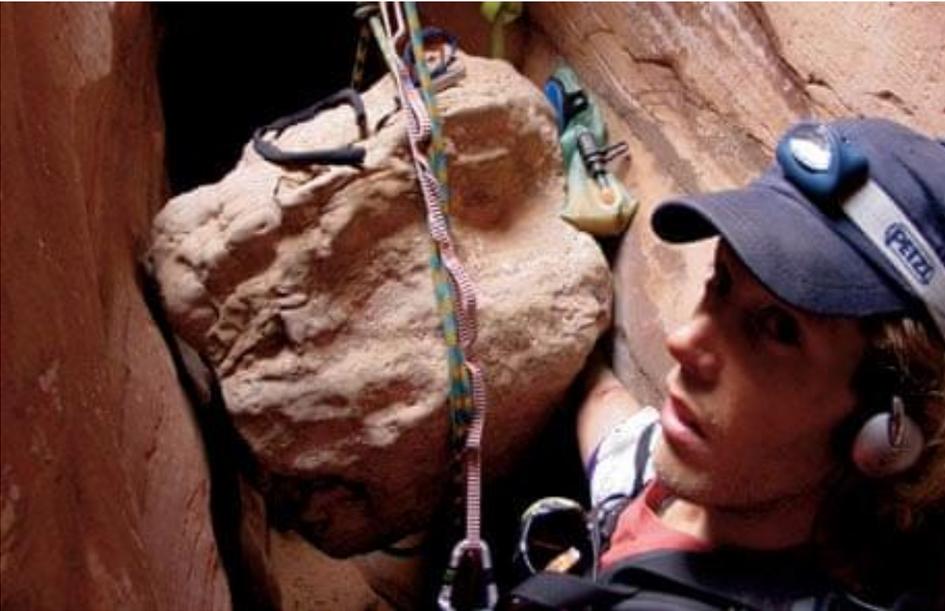
Juliane Koepcke had two big survival stories to tell by the end of her ordeal. On Christmas Eve 1971, Koepcke flew on LANSА Flight 508, which was struck by lightning. It began to disintegrate in midair, and Koepcke found herself still strapped to her seat—two miles above the Peruvian rainforest.

She was battered. She was bruised. Her collarbone was broken. But she was alive—the only survivor of the flight. And now, she found herself in the wilderness alone. Some candy was her only food, but she found a small stream. She waded down-water in it, able to keep herself hydrated at the same time.

The insects in the jungle stopped short of eating her alive and maggots had infected her arm, but after nine days, she was able to find an encampment. She gave herself rudimentary first aid, including pouring gasoline on the maggot infestation. A few hours later, lumber workers found her, giving her first aid and taking her to a more inhabited area where she was airlifted to a hospital.

Her story was eventually told in the 2000 documentary *Wings of Hope* by director Werner Herzog, who had a seat booked on that very flight before cancelling at the last minute.

Aron Ralston



Aron Ralston will forever be known as the guy who cut his hand off to escape a climbing accident that left him trapped between two boulders. Ralston was climbing in Blue John Canyon in Utah alone. As he shimmied down a canyon, a boulder came loose and trapped his hand.

No one knew he was there, and he only had a little bit of water and a little bit of food. It was up to him to rescue himself. He struggled for three days before deciding to self-amputate in order to extricate himself. But after two days of trying various methods, he nearly gave up. At this point, he was out of water and surviving on his own urine.

That is until an idea came to him on day six: he could amputate a portion of his own arm much more easily if he could only break his radius and ulna. After an hour of work with a cheap multitool, he had amputated his hand successfully, and had to still get back to his vehicle, descending a 65-foot wall with one hand.

He was eventually discovered by a European family on a camp out, and six hours after his self-amputation, he was rescued by authorities. He was found just in time: Ralston was on the brink of death from blood loss. He survives today, still taking outdoor expeditions and climbing adventures when not giving speeches or having movies made about his life.

Ada Blackjack



Alaska native Ada Blackjack was a member of the Indigenous Iñupiat people. She was hired by Canadians Vilhjalmur Stefansson and Allan Crawford on an expedition to the Wrangel Islands, which are now considered Russian territory. The goal was to claim them in the name of Canada, and Blackjack was the seamstress and cook of the expedition.

Five members of the expedition were left on the island on September 16, 1921 as a territorial claim, but their rations soon ran low. Three members went off in search of help while Blackjack took care of an ailing crewmate, who later perished, leaving her alone on the island.

Blackjack survived there for two years, not an easy task considering the risk of polar bear attack. She learned to hunt seals and partly survived off their meat until she was finally rescued on August 28, 1923, almost two years after she'd been left on the island.

According to a site run by the University of Alaska-Anchorage, Blackjack did not receive a hero's welcome. Instead, she was criticized for not saving the life of her male crewmate, though the family "eventually vindicated her after meeting with her and issuing a statement that Blackjack had done everything possible to save their son's life." Still, she spent the rest of her life in poverty before her death in 1983.



Questions

- 1- Where did each of the stories take place?
- 2- In your opinion, which person suffered the most? Explain.
- 3- In your opinion, which person suffered the least? Explain.
- 4- What did all these people have in common? Give an example.
- 5- If you had to re-live the experience of one of these people, which one would you choose? Why?
- 6- What is a hero? What is a Role-Model? Are these people heroes? Role-models? Both? Neither? Explain.
- 7- Who is a hero / role-model for you? Why?
- 8- 10 Write a 250 – 300 word story about a time in your life when you were in danger, scared, almost died, or had to dig deep to be courageous.