

## Curriculum for How I Became a Teenage Survivalist

I. Read [\*How I Became a Teenage Survivalist\*](#) by Julie L. Casey

### II. Discussion questions

#### A. Questions from the book

1. Immediately after the students in Bracken's class heard the initial big explosion on PF Day, what did they fear had happened?
2. Why didn't Bracken know Skylar very well, even though they had known each other almost all their lives? How is it possible to feel you know someone without really knowing him or her?
3. What things did Bracken's family already have that gave them an advantage for survival after PF Day? (Examples: fireplace, harvested grain, hunting equipment, water well, chickens etc.)
4. What things did they acquire that aided their survival? (Examples: livestock, wood-burning stove, horse-drawn farming equipment, etc.)
5. What things did they make to aid their survival? (Examples: solar bottle light, solar water heater, solar heat exchangers, etc.)
6. How did the townspeople pull together to help each other survive? (Examples: town market, stoves made from old water heaters, specialization and trading of skills, etc.)
7. What were some of the long-term consequences of PF Day for society in terms of physical, emotional, and financial problems? (Examples: millions of deaths, post-traumatic stress, financial meltdown, etc.)
8. How did Bracken, Alex, and Calvin change throughout the story? What specific things made you aware of those changes?
9. How did Bracken and his family perceive Ben's personality while he stayed with them?
10. How did the presence of Bracken's grandparents help the family?
11. How did the death of Robin's dad, the near-fatal appendicitis of the little boy in town, and Robin's difficult childbirth affect Bracken's mom's confidence in her medical knowledge?

12. What did people speculate about baby Joey's unusually large head and intelligence?

B. What are some of the cataclysmic events in which we might be faced with a survival situation?

On the Internet, find examples of when some of these may have already occurred on earth and what were the effects. Examples (have students brainstorm ideas, adding suggestions as needed):

1. CME (coronal mass ejection) from a solar superstorm
2. EMP (electro magnetic pulse) from a bomb exploded in the atmosphere
2. A primordial black hole, meteor, or asteroid collision with earth
3. An extreme weather event, such as a tornado, flood, hurricane, ice/snow storm, wildfire
4. An extreme geologic event, such as earthquake, volcanic eruption
5. War or terrorist attack
6. Financial meltdown

C. What are some of the different situations you might find yourself in that you would need to know survival skills? What would you do if faced with situations such as these? How would you feel?

Examples (have students brainstorm ideas, adding suggestions as needed):

1. Lost in the woods
2. Stranded in your car
3. Stranded somewhere other than home during a cataclysmic event
4. Isolated in your home after a severe weather or geologic event
5. Separated from loved ones with no means of communication
6. Trapped in an elevator

III. Hands-on activities (choose one or two activities based upon the age/abilities of the students)

A. Give each student or small group a specific problem to solve, using only what they have available at home and no power except their own to make something that solves or at least partially solves that problem. Examples:

1. Shelter
2. Home heating

3. Water heating/sanitization
  4. Lighting
  5. Cooking
  6. Laundering clothes
  7. Hunting/foraging (no guns, as bullets would soon run out)
  8. Food refrigeration
  9. Medicine/first aid
  10. Sewer system
- B. Make a [\*paracord survival bracelet\*](#) for wilderness survival
- C. Make a [\*solar jar lamp\*](#)
- D. Make a [\*water filter\*](#)
- E. Make a [\*bug-out bag/emergency kit\*](#)

#### IV. Resources

- A. [\*How I Became a Teenage Survivalist\*](#) website
- B. Julie L. Casey's Pinterest board, [\*Become a Survivalist\*](#)
- C. [\*How I Became a Teenage Survivalist Facebook\*](#) page