

SURVIVORS!

What does it take to survive a disaster? A plane crash? A shipwreck? Read these books and find out.

MS = middle school HS = high school



The Cay – Theodore Taylor

When the freighter on which they are traveling is torpedoed by a German submarine during World War II, an adolescent white boy, blinded by a blow on the head, and an old black man are stranded on a tiny Caribbean island where the boy acquires a new kind of vision, courage, and love from his old companion. MS/HS



The Compound – S. A. Bodeen

Eli's family rushes to the compound, built by his father to keep the family safe from a nuclear holocaust. After 6 years of surviving in the bunker, Eli suspects his father is keeping a terrible secret from the rest of the family – about what is really going on in the world. HS



The Dead and the Gone – Susan Beth Pfeffer

After a meteor hits the moon, Alex's parents disappear in the tidal waves that follow. He must care for his two younger sisters, even as Manhattan becomes a deadly wasteland, and food and aid dwindle. HS



Dr. Franklin's Island – Ann Halam

When their plane crashes over the Pacific Ocean, three science students are left stranded on a tropical island and then imprisoned by a doctor who is performing horrifying experiments on humans involving the transfer of animal genes. MS/HS

Fever 1793 –

Laurie Halse Anderson



It is the summer of 1793, and sixteen-year-old Mattie Cook lives above the family coffee shop in Philadelphia with her widowed mother and grandfather. When she becomes separated from her sick mother, Mattie learns about perseverance and self-reliance as she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic. MS/HS



Girl in a Cage – Jane Yolen & Robert J. Harris

As English armies invade Scotland in 1306, eleven-year-old Princess Marjorie, daughter of the newly crowned Scottish king, Robert the Bruce, is captured by England's King Edward Longshanks and held in a cage on public display. MS



Hatchet – Gary Paulsen

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the Canadian wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce. MS/HS



Homecoming – Cynthia Voigt

Abandoned in a mall parking lot by their mother, the four Tillerman children begin a search for a home and an identity. MS



The Hunger Games –

Suzanne Collins

In a future North America, the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition forcing young people from each of the twelve districts into a vast arena to fight to the death. Sixteen-year-old Katniss's

skills are put to the test when she volunteers to take her younger sister's place in these deadly 'reality show' games.



Live As We Knew It –

Susan Beth Pfeffer

A cosmic event has set off cataclysmic climate changes and worldwide catastrophe.

Through journal entries, sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive in rural Pennsylvania after a meteor hit the moon. MS/HS



Nation - Terry Pratchett

When a giant wave destroys his village, Mau is the only one left. Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, is the sole survivor of a shipwreck. Separated by language and customs, the two are united by catastrophe, and they struggle together to save themselves and a small band of refugees. MS/HS



Overboard – Elizabeth Fama

Escaping from a sinking ferry in the waters off Sumatra, fourteen-year-old Emily fights for survival for herself and a young

Indonesian boy, who draws courage from his quiet but firm Islamic faith. MS/HS



Paradise: Inspired by a true story of survival – Joan E. Goodman

In 1542, eager to escape the French Huguenot household of her harsh father, sixteen-year-old Marguerite de la Rocque sails with her equally stern uncle, the Sieur de Roberval, to the New World, where she is left alone on an island with only her young Catholic lover and her chaperone to help her survive. HS



Peak – Roland Smith

Fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello attempts to become the youngest

person ever to scale the summit of Mount Everest, facing avalanches, icy crevasses, howling winds, oxygen deprivation and the frozen corpses of some of the many climbers who tried and failed to survive the challenge. MS/HS



Tomorrow, When the War Began
– John Marsden

Seven Australian teenagers return from a camping trip in the bush to discover that their country has been invaded and they must hide to stay alive. HS



Touching Spirit Bear –

Ben Mikaelson

After his anger erupts into violence, Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life. MS/HS



The White Darkness – Geraldine McCaughrean

Sym is obsessed with the Antarctic and the brave, romantic figure of Captain Oates from Scott's doomed expedition to the South Pole. In fact, Oates is the secret confidant to whom she spills all her hopes and fears. Sym's uncle Victor is even more obsessed and when he takes her on a dream trip into the bleak Antarctic wilderness, it turns into a nightmarish struggle for survival that will challenge everything she knows and loves. HS

Researched and compiled by F.Lehman 05/2010



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