

# 'Survival' Homework Booklet



Name:

Teacher's name:

Week	Vocabulary	Comprehension	Inference	SPaG	Parent signature
1. <i>Scrambles Amongst the Alps in the years 1860-69 by Edward Whymper</i>	/5	/5	/3	/3	
2. <i>To Build a Fire by Jack London – Part three</i>	/5	/5	/3	/3	
3. <i>'Survivors' by Siegfried Sassoon</i>	/5	/5	/3	/3	

## Week 1 Homework

### Scrambles Amongst the Alps in the years 1860-69 by Edward Whymper

In 1865, Edward Whymper and six other climbers became the first men to climb the Matterhorn, which is one of the highest mountains in Europe. Here Whymper describes what happened on the way down.

1	Croz ... was in the act of turning round to go down a step or two himself; at this moment Mr. Hadow slipped, fell against him and knocked him over. I heard one startled exclamation from Croz, then saw him and Mr. Hadow flying downwards; in another moment Hudson was dragged from his steps, and Lord F. Douglas immediately after him. All this was the work of a moment. Immediately we heard Croz's
5	exclamation, old Peter and I planted ourselves as firmly as the rocks would permit: the rope was taut between us, and the jerk came on us both as on one man. We held; but the rope broke midway between Taugwalder and Lord Francis Douglas. For a few seconds we saw our unfortunate companions sliding downward on their backs, and spreading out their hands, endeavouring to save themselves. They passed from our sight uninjured, disappeared one by one, and fell from precipice to precipice on to the
10	Matterhornletscher, a distance of nearly four thousand feet in height.
	So perished our comrades! For the space of half-an-hour we remained on the spot without moving a single step. The two men, paralysed by terror, cried like infants ... the young man did nothing but scream or sob, "We are lost! We are lost!" Fixed between the two, I could move neither up nor down. I begged young Peter to descend, but he dared not. Unless he did, we could not advance. Old Peter became alive
15	to the danger, and swelled the cry, "We are lost! We are lost!" The father's fear was natural—he trembled for his son; the young man's fear was cowardly—he thought of self alone.
	... After a time, we were able to do that which should have been done at first, and fixed rope to firm rocks, in addition to being tied together. These ropes were cut from time to time, and were left behind. Even with their assurance the men were afraid to proceed, and several times old Peter turned with ashy
20	face and faltering limbs, and said with terrible emphasis, " <i>I cannot!</i> "
	About 6 P.M. we arrived at the snow upon the ridge descending toward Zermatt, and all peril was over. We frequently looked, but in vain, for traces of our unfortunate companions; we bent over the ridge and cried to them, but no sound returned.
	... I was ready to leave, and waiting for the others. They had recovered their appetites and the use of their tongues. They spoke in patois, which I did not understand. At length the son said in French, "Monsieur."
25	"Yes." "We are poor men; we have lost our Herr; we shall not get paid; we can ill afford this."
	"Stop!" I said, interrupting him, "that is nonsense: I shall pay you, of course, just as if your Herr were here."
	They talked together in their patois for a short time, and then the son spoke again: "We don't wish you to pay us. We wish you to write in the hotel-book at Zermatt and to your journals, that we have not been
30	paid."
	"What nonsense are you talking? I don't understand you. What do you mean?"
	He proceeded— "Why, next year there will be many travellers at Zermatt, and we shall get more <i>voyageurs.</i> "
35	Who would answer such a proposition? I made them no reply in words, but they knew very well the indignation that I felt. They filled the cup of bitterness to overflowing, and I tore down the cliff, madly and recklessly, in a way that caused them, more than once, to inquire if I wished to kill them. Night fell; and for an hour the descent was continued in the darkness. At half-past 9 a resting-place was found, and upon a wretched slab, barely large enough to hold the three, we passed six miserable hours. At daybreak the
40	descent was resumed, and from the Hörnli ridge we ran down to the chalets of Buhl, and on to Zermatt.

## Week One: Multiple Choice Quiz

### Section 1: Vocabulary

1. The **word class** of **exclamation** is:

- A) Noun [ ]
- B) Verb [ ]
- C) Adjective [ ]

2. The word **endeavouring** means:

- A) Total chaos. [ ]
- B) Trying hard. [ ]
- C) Not trying at all. [ ]
- D) Feeling indifferent. [ ]

3. Identify **one synonym** of **vain**:

- A) Conceited. [ ]
- B) Futile. [ ]
- C) Simultaneously [ ]

4. The word **precipice** means:

- A) A steep cliff. [ ]
- B) An ocean. [ ]
- C) The sky [ ]

5. Identify **one synonym** of **companion**:

- A) Family member. [ ]
- B) Friend. [ ]
- C) Enemy. [ ]

### Section 3: Inference

1. The phrase "**All this was the work of a moment.**" suggests:

- A) It is the characters fault they are in trouble. [ ]
- B) It is not the characters fault they are in trouble. [ ]
- C) Nature is powerful. [ ]

2. The phrase "**After a time, we were able to do that which should have been done at first**" suggests:

- A) The characters regained their confidence. [ ]
- B) The characters lost all confidence. [ ]
- C) The characters did not know what to do. [ ]

3. The phrase "**We frequently looked, but in vain, for traces of our unfortunate companions.**" suggests:

- A) The characters' friends were found safe and well. [ ]
- B) The characters' friends are dead but they did not know this. [ ]
- C) The characters' friends are dead and they know this. [ ]

### Section 2: Comprehension

1. What mountain are the characters climbing?

- A) Everest [ ]
- B) Matterhorn [ ]
- C) Snowdon [ ]

2. Where did they arrive at 6pm?

- A) The mountain's peak. [ ]
- B) At the snow upon the ridge. [ ]
- C) Zermatt. [ ]
- D) He stayed at home. [ ]

3. What does Peter cry out?

- A) "We are lost" [ ]
- B) "Where is my son?" [ ]
- C) "I want to die" [ ]

4. What language does the protagonist speak?

- A) Patois [ ]
- B) Spanish [ ]
- C) French. [ ]
- D) Zermatt. [ ]

5. How does the protagonist feel at the end of the extract?

- A) Indignation. [ ]
- B) Suicidal. [ ]
- C) Murderous. [ ]
- D) Bitter. [ ]

### Section 4: SPaG

1. The **homophone we're** means:

- A) Relating to place or position. [ ]
- B) We are. [ ]
- C) Plural past tense of the verb 'are'. [ ]

2. The **homophone where** means:

- A) Relating to place or position. [ ]
- B) We are. [ ]
- C) Plural past tense of the verb 'are'. [ ]

3. The **homophone were** means:

- A) Relating to place or position. [ ]
- B) We are. [ ]
- C) Plural past tense of the verb 'are'. [ ]

## **Week 2 Homework – To Build a Fire by Jack London – Part three**

The old-timer on Sulphur Creek was right, he thought in the moment of controlled despair that ensued: after fifty below, a man should travel with a partner ... Suddenly he bared both hands, removing the mittens with his teeth. He caught the whole bunch between the heels of his hands. His arm-muscles not being frozen enabled him to press the hand-heels tightly against the matches. Then he scratched the bunch along his leg. It flared into flame, seventy sulphur matches at once! There was no wind to blow them out. He kept his head to one side to escape the strangling fumes, and held the blazing bunch to the birch-bark. As he so held it, he became aware of sensation in his hand. His flesh was burning. He could smell it. Deep down below the surface he could feel it. The sensation developed into pain that grew acute. And still he endured it, holding the flame of the matches clumsily to the bark that would not light readily because his own burning hands were in the way, absorbing most of the flame.

At last, when he could endure no more, he jerked his hands apart. The blazing matches fell sizzling into the snow, but the birch-bark was alight ... He cherished the flame carefully and awkwardly. It meant life, and it must not perish. The withdrawal of blood from the surface of his body now made him begin to shiver, and he grew more awkward. A large piece of green moss fell squarely on the little fire. He tried to poke it out with his fingers, but his shivering frame made him poke too far, and he disrupted the nucleus of the little fire, the burning grasses and tiny twigs separating and scattering. He tried to poke them together again, but in spite of the tenseness of the effort, his shivering got away with him, and the twigs were hopelessly scattered. Each twig gushed a puff of smoke and went out. The fire-provider had failed ...

... The sight of the dog put a wild idea into his head. He remembered the tale of the man, caught in a blizzard, who killed a steer and crawled inside the carcass, and so was saved. He would kill the dog and bury his hands in the warm body until the numbness went out of them. Then he could build another fire. He spoke to the dog, calling it to him; but in his voice was a strange note of fear that frightened the animal, who had never known the man to speak in such way before. Something was the matter, and its suspicious nature sensed danger,—it knew not what danger but somewhere, somehow, in its brain arose an apprehension of the man ... and the animal sidled mincingly away.

The man sat up in the snow for a moment and struggled for calmness ... and when he spoke peremptorily, with the sound of whiplashes in his voice, the dog rendered its customary allegiance and came to him. As it came within reaching distance, the man lost his control. His arms flashed out to the dog and he experienced genuine surprise when he discovered that his hands could not clutch, that there was neither bend nor feeling in the fingers. He had forgotten for the moment that they were frozen and that

they were freezing more and more. All this happened quickly, and before the animal could get away, he encircled its body with his arms. He sat down in the snow, and in this fashion held the dog, while it snarled and whined and struggled.

But it was all he could do: hold its body encircled in his arms and sit there. He realized that he could not kill the dog. There was no way to do it. With his helpless hands he could neither draw nor hold his sheath-knife nor throttle the animal. He released it, and it plunged wildly away, with tail between its legs, and still snarling ... The man looked down at his hands in order to locate them, and found them hanging on the ends of his arms ... He began threshing his arms back and forth beating the mittened hands against his sides ... But no sensation was aroused in the hands ...

... This threw him into a panic, and he turned and ran up the creek-bed along the old, dim trail. The dog joined in behind and kept up with him ... The running made him feel better. He did not shiver. Maybe, if he ran on, his feet would thaw out; and, anyway, if he ran far enough, he would reach camp and the boys. Without doubt he would lose some fingers and toes and some of his face; but the boys would take care of him, and save the rest of him when he got there. And at the same time there was another thought in his mind that said he would never get to the camp and the boys; that it was too many miles away, that the freezing had too great a start on him, and that he would soon be stiff and dead. This thought he kept in the background and refused to consider. Sometimes it pushed itself forward and demanded to be heard, but he thrust it back and strove to think of other things.

It struck him as curious that he could run at all on feet so frozen that he could not feel them when they struck the earth and took the weight of his body. He seemed to himself to skim along above the surface, and to have no connection with the earth ... Several times he stumbled, and finally he tottered, crumpled up, and fell ...

... And all the time the dog ran with him, at his heels. When he fell down a second time, it curled its tail over its forefeet and sat in front of him facing him curiously eager and intent. The warmth and security of the animal angered him, and he cursed it till it flattened down its ears appeasingly. This time the shivering came more quickly upon the man. He was losing in his battle with the frost. It was creeping into his body from all sides. The thought of it drove him on, but he ran no more than a hundred feet, when he staggered and pitched headlong ... he sat up and entertained in his mind the conception of meeting death with dignity. However, the conception did not come to him in such terms. His idea of it was that he had been making a fool of himself, running around like a chicken with its head cut off—such was the simile that occurred to him. Well, he was bound to freeze anyway, and he might as well take it decently. With this new-found peace of mind came the first glimmerings of drowsiness. A good idea, he thought, to sleep off to death. It was like taking an anaesthetic. Freezing was not so bad as people thought. There were lots worse ways to die.

He pictured the boys finding his body next day. Suddenly he found himself with them, coming along the trail and looking for himself. And, still with them, he came around a turn in the trail and found himself lying in the snow. He did not belong with himself any more, for even then he was out of himself, standing with the boys and looking at himself in the snow. It certainly was cold, was his thought. When he got back to the States he could tell the folks what real cold was. He drifted on from this to a vision of the old-timer on Sulphur Creek. He could see him quite clearly, warm and comfortable, and smoking a pipe.

"You were right, old hoss; you were right," the man mumbled to the old-timer of Sulphur Creek.

Then the man drowsed off into what seemed to him the most comfortable and satisfying sleep he had ever known. The dog sat facing him and waiting. The brief day drew to a close in a long, slow twilight. There were no signs of a fire to be made, and, besides, never in the dog's experience had it known a man to sit like that in the snow and make no fire. As the twilight drew on, its eager yearning for the fire mastered it, and with a great lifting and shifting of forefeet, it whined softly, then flattened its ears down in anticipation of being chidden by the man. But the man remained silent. Later, the dog whined loudly. And still later it crept close to the man and caught the scent of death. This made the animal bristle and back away. A little longer it delayed, howling under the stars that leaped and danced and shone brightly in the cold sky. Then it turned and trotted up the trail in the direction of the camp it knew, where were the other food-providers and fire-providers.

## Week 2: Multiple

### Section 1: Vocabulary

- The **word class** of **despair** is:  
A) Noun [ ]  
B) Verb [ ]  
C) Adjective [ ]
- The word **ensued** means:  
A) **Happen or occur afterwards or as a result.** [ ]  
B) Happen or occur before as or as a result. [ ]  
C) Happen or occur simultaneously or as a result. [ ]
- Identify one meaning of **flared**:  
A) Dilated. [ ]  
B) Having a shape that widens progressively towards the end or bottom. [ ]  
C) **Burn or shine with a sudden intensity.** [ ]
- Identify one synonym of **threshing**:  
A) Beating. [ ]  
B) **Flailing.** [ ]  
C) Calmly. [ ]
- Identify **one synonym** of **conception**:  
A) Fertilisation. [ ]  
B) **Formation.** [ ]  
C) Idea. [ ]  
D) Scheme. [ ]

### Section 3: Inference

- The phrase **“running around like a chicken with its head cut off”** suggests:  
A) The character feels like they are dead. [ ]  
B) The character is acting as though they are dead. [ ]  
C) The character feels chaotic. [ ]  
D) **The character is acting chaotic.** [ ]
- The phrase **“His arm-muscles not being frozen.”** suggests:  
A) The character is warm. [ ]  
B) **The character is in cold surroundings.** [ ]  
C) The character is cold hearted. [ ]  
D) The character is warm hearted. [ ]
- The phrase **“Without doubt he would lose some fingers and toes and some of his face”** suggests:  
A) The character cannot find parts of his body. [ ]  
B) The character is over exaggerating how cold it is. [ ]  
C) **The character will literally lose some parts of his body.** [ ]

### Section 2: Comprehension

- Below what temperature did the old-timer believe that a man should not travel on his own?  
A) **-50** [ ]  
B) -5. [ ]  
C) +5. [ ]  
D) +50 [ ].
- In the second paragraph (‘At last, when he could endure no more ...’), why can the man not control his fingers properly??  
A) He is sweating. [ ]  
B) **He is shivering.** [ ]  
C) He got scared by a dog. [ ]  
D) He is too tired. [ ]
- Why does the man decide to kill the dog?  
A) For food. [ ]  
B) As it will die anyway. [ ]  
C) **To keep him warm.** [ ]
- In paragraph 4 (‘The man sat up in the snow ...’), why does the dog finally come to the man?  
A) The character spoke passionately. [ ]  
B) **The character spoke with authority.** [ ]  
C) The character spoke calmly. [ ]
- In paragraph 5 (‘But it was all he could do ...’), how does the writer show us how cold the man's hands are?  
A) **By explaining the character has no feeling in them** [ ]  
B) By explaining how they have turned blue. [ ]  
C) By describing the character as though he is dead. [ ]

### Section 4: SPaG

- Identify the **correct spelling**:  
A) abversity [ ]  
B) **adversity** [ ]  
C) adversety [ ]  
D) abversety [ ]
- Identify the **correct spelling**:  
A) challange [ ]  
B) challenge [ ]  
C) **challenge** [ ]  
D) chalenge [ ]
- Identify the **correct spelling**:  
A) diffciulty [ ]  
B) **difficulty** [ ]  
C) difficultie [ ]

## Week 3 Homework: 'Survivors' by Siegfried Sassoon

This extract is from the diary of a young Jewish girl who went into hiding during WWII in order to avoid being sent off to the concentration camps by the Gestapo.

Anne wrote to her diary, whom she nicknamed 'Kitty', between June 1942 and August 1944.

	<u>Survivors</u>
1	No doubt they'll soon get well; the shock and strain Have caused their stammering, disconnected talk. Of course they're 'longing to go out again,'— These boys with old, scared faces, learning to walk.
5	They'll soon forget their haunted nights; their cowed Subjection to the ghosts of friends who died,— Their dreams that drip with murder; and they'll be proud Of glorious war that shattered all their pride ... Men who went out to battle, grim and glad;
10	Children, with eyes that hate you, broken and mad.

Written at Craiglockart military hospital, October, 1917.

## Week 3: Multiple Choice Quiz

### Section 1: Vocabulary

1. The **word class** of **strain** is:  
A) Noun [ ]  
B) Verb [ ]  
C) Adjective [ ]
2. The word means **stammering**:  
A) To talk with a stutter. [ ]  
B) Being reluctant to speak. [ ]  
C) Speaking loudly. [ ]  
D) Speaking quietly. [ ]
3. Identify **one synonym** of **cowed**:  
A) Submit [ ]  
B) Intimidate [ ]  
C) Not care [ ]
4. The word **subjection** means:  
A) The action of forcing a country or person to one's control. [ ]  
B) The act of relinquishing control over something else. [ ]  
C) The act of refusing control. [ ]
5. Identify **one antonym** of **grim**:  
A) Pleasant [ ]  
B) Stern [ ]  
C) Calming [ ]  
D) Fair [ ]

### Section 3: Inference

1. The phrase **"No doubt they'll soon get well"** suggests:  
A) The poet is being sarcastic. [ ]  
B) The poet is being honest. [ ]  
C) The poet does not care. [ ]
2. The phrase **"These boys with old, scared faces."** suggests:  
A) The poet believes people returning from the war will be injured. [ ]  
B) The poet believes people returning from the war will not be injured. [ ]  
C) The poet believes you will see the scars on the mens' faces more now they have been to war. [ ]
3. The phrase **"their cowed Subjection to the ghosts"** suggests:  
A) The poet believes the men returning will not be haunted. [ ]  
B) The poet believes the men returning will be literally haunted. [ ]  
C) The poet believes the men returning will be metaphorically haunted. [ ]

### Section 2: Comprehension

1. What does the poet believe the soldiers returning want to do?  
A) Learn to walk. [ ]  
B) Return to war. [ ]  
C) Be with their loved ones. [ ]
2. How does the poet refer to the soldiers?  
A) As boys. [ ]  
B) As men. [ ]  
C) As children. [ ]  
D) As adults. [ ]
3. What does the poet believe the men will forget?  
A) Their families. [ ]  
B) The harsh reality of war. [ ]  
C) The happy reality of war. [ ]
4. What does the poet believe the soldiers dream of?  
A) Murder. [ ]  
B) Guns. [ ]  
C) War [ ]
5. How do the families feel about the solders going to war?  
A) Happy [ ]  
B) Sad [ ]  
C) Angry [ ]

### Section 4: SPaG

1. The **homophone there** means:  
A) Belonging to them [ ]  
B) They are [ ]  
C) At or in that place [ ]
2. The **homophone they're** means:  
A) Belonging to them [ ]  
B) They are [ ]  
C) At or in that place [ ]
3. The **homophone their** means:  
A) Belonging to them [ ]  
B) They are [ ]  
C) At or in that place [ ]