

## Using Synthesis to Describe Survival Stories

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**Synthesizing** and **integrating** mean combining parts (facts, thoughts, or ideas) into a new whole.

**You use synthesis and integration when you**

- use what you already know to figure out the meaning of a new word
- combine several brainstorming suggestions to develop a solution to a problem
- develop a consensus of opinion based on everyone's ideas

In what other situations might you use synthesis and integration?

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**Essential Question:** What can be learned from survival literature?

**Directions:** Next to **Models A** and **B** on the following screens, a reader has summarized the elements of a survival story that appear in the passage. This is a *tentative* statement because new ideas about survival literature will be added. Read **Models C** and **D** and write a tentative statement for each. List any additional elements of survival stories that you have learned from your reading. Finally, write a final synthesis statement about survival and survival literature in the last box.

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### Model A

He was *there*, in the essential, classic circumstance. Man in nature. The man in the water. For its part, nature cared nothing about the five passengers. . . . So the timeless battle commenced in the Potomac.

*from "The Man in the Water," p. 87*

**Tentative Statement:**  
Survival stories are about people in life-and-death situations.

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### Model B

We live in a world in which nothing that happens is our own fault. . . . Which, I think, is why some of us venture into the wilderness. We do so because it's not safe, and there's no one to blame but ourselves. You can get hurt out there, which is precisely the point. Wilderness is a way of taking back control of our lives.

*from "Search and Rescue," p. 26*

**Tentative Statement:**  
Survival stories are about those who must learn to rely on themselves.

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### Model C

. . . . [K]nifing through her mind, sharp and keen, was a human thought. *Fight*. She turned and kicked out at whatever had hold of her.

*from "Wilding," p. 19*

### Tentative Statement:

Survivors are challenged to discover their inner resources, such as the instinct to fight for survival.

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### Model D

[Tom Beneke] understood fully that he might actually be going to die. . . . And it occurred to him then with all the force of a revelation that, if he fell, all he was ever going to have out of life he would then, abruptly, have had. . . . He wished, then, that he had not allowed his wife to go off by herself

*continued*

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### Model D

tonight. . . . He thought of all the evenings he had spent away from her, working; and he regretted them.

*from* “Contents of the Dead Man’s Pockets,” p. 54

### Tentative Statement:

Survivors are often changed by their confrontation with death.

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Use synthesis to make your final statement describing survival and survival stories.

Possible response: Survival stories are about people who must rely on their own abilities to cope with life-and-death situations.

Survivors typically discover their limits, their inner resources, and a new appreciation for life.