

Name _____

Date _____

Class Period _____

Courage Scenarios

What Is Courage?

When people decide whether some thing or idea belongs in a certain category, they often use a set of rules to guide their thinking. Working with your classmates, do the following:

1. Read each of the following scenarios and check yes or no in answer to the question that ends the paragraph.
2. On the lines below each paragraph, write the rule by which you decided whether the action is or is not courageous.
3. Begin your rule statement with "For an act to be courageous, it must..."
4. Then explain how the scenarios does or does not fit the rule.

Scenarios:

1. Near the end of his officer training, Roger volunteered to go on a mission that the captain said involved "real danger." The captain used this phrase to describe all missions, so Roger assumed that the mission was just another part of his training. When the plane carrying the men left the ground, Roger was surprised to hear the pilot say the men were part of an invasion of a small Caribbean island. Was Roger's willingness to volunteer for the mission courageous?

____ Yes ____ No

2. Out of the corner of his eye, the Secret Service agent spotted a gun aimed at the president. Instantly, he threw himself in the line of fire, taking the bullet meant for the president. Was the agent's act of jumping in front of the president to protect him from the bullet courageous?

____ Yes ____ No

3. In the small town of Clinton, teenage boys liked to play "chicken" with their cars. Two boys raced their cars directly at each other. The first boy to swerve to avoid the crash lost. Were the boys courageous when they played chicken?

____ Yes ____ No

4. Thirteen-year-old James had been beaten many times by a group of bullies in his neighborhood. He generally tried to avoid them. One day, they surrounded him on the street. He was so frightened he could not think clearly. In a panic, hardly knowing what he was doing, he ran as fast as he could at the boy nearest him, knocking him to the ground. Was James' attack courageous?

____ Yes ____ No

5. On Monday, a fire started on an oil derrick far out at sea. By Wednesday, the men working on the derrick had been rescued, but the fire was out of control. Reed Granger and his men were called in to fight the dangerous fire. Reed and his men had fought many oil fires. They had training, equipment, and experience to put out the fire. Were Reed and his men courageous when they fought the fire?

Yes No

6. On the oceanfront, Mr. Jones heard a swimmer shouting for help. He saw signs indicating that this part of the beach was extremely dangerous because of undertows. A lifeguard asked Jones to help him move a boat into the water to be used to help rescue the drowning man. Instead, Jones said, "Don't be silly!" He ran into the water to swim out to the drowning person. Was Jones' effort to save the swimmer courageous?

Yes No

7. Lesley was an accountant for a bank. Because she handled large sums of money, her work was carefully watched by security cameras and checked by computers. Despite the dangers, Lesley knew she was highly skilled and decided to transfer money from other accounts to her own. Was Lesley's theft of money courageous?

Yes No

8. The expert tightrope walker had never had even a minor accident. For a special charity event, she decided to perform without a net. Was her performance without a net courageous?

Yes No

9. Rose was trapped eight stories up in the burning building. Although rescue workers had attempted to reach her, they could not. With fire beginning to eat away at the floor behind her, she ran to the window. She looked back again and saw flames only two feet away. Below she saw a large dumpster filled with paper and other debris. She climbed on the sill and jumped as far as she could to reach the dumpster. Was Rose's jump courageous?

Yes No
