

HEROISM

Values for Living—Cadet Character Development Forum

CADET HANDOUT

What does it take to be a hero?

Rank actions A through J from the MOST heroic (1) to the LEAST heroic (10).

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

- a. An accident leaves a gymnast paralyzed. For five years she spends twelve to fourteen hours a day in therapy to try to regain the use of her legs. Her hard work results in a miraculous recovery, and she wins a gold medal in the Olympics.
- b. A schoolteacher is invited to be part of the seven-person crew of the Space Shuttle. Her story draws national attention and increases interest in NASA's scientific missions. She dies as the Shuttle explodes shortly after takeoff.
- c. An eleven-year old boy sees a teenager robbing a young woman, threatening to stab her if she resists. He rides off on his bike and gets the police. The officers arrive too late to prevent the theft, but the boy's actions may have saved the young woman's life.
- d. A lifeguard rescues a six-year old boy from drowning in a public pool by dragging him out with a hook.
- e. After years of research, a scientist makes a discovery that will cure thousands of people with heart disease.
- f. A woman is swimming in the ocean. When sharks are seen near her, her husband dashes into the water to save her. Sharks sever part of his leg, but he manages to pull his wife and himself to safety.
- g. A man runs into a burning building that is about to collapse to rescue a child trapped inside. As he is running out with the child, the building collapses, killing them both.
- h. When a boat capsizes in a storm, four people are clinging to a small raft that will hold only three. An old man with a fatal disease knows he will die in a few months, so he gives up the raft for others. He drowns in the waves.
- i. A bystander helps a woman who is drowning in a river after a plane crash. The water is very cold, and only a few minutes of exposure could result in death. He is able to save the woman but freezes and drowns in the process.
- j. A man finds that the company he works for has been cheating customers. He reports his findings on a television news program. Shortly thereafter, he is fired from his job.