



Student Power

Grades 6-8

By

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Students use their classroom lessons to help them out of a jam as they find themselves in the midst of a rainforest without food or water.

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Characters

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SURVIVOR GROUP 1	2-3
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HEAD FISH	1
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ACT I

(TV studio is broadcasting live from the middle of an island somewhere in the Pacific Ocean)

TV announcer

Well folks here we are a year later with our survivors who agreed to stay on this small island in the Pacific for a whole year in exchange for not having to do their math homework.

With our hidden cameras we will take a look to see how they have survived in the wild without the comfort of modern every day conveniences.

This show is sponsored in part by a University student conservation club and today an intern joins us from the organization to give us some insight into some of the challenges our survivors may have faced over the last year.

Quirky College Conservation Intern

(fussing with his hair in front of the camera)

Am I really on TV?

TV Announcer

Well, yes, that is the camera right there.

Quirky College Conservation Intern

(fussing with his hair & hat)

Cool!

TV Announcer

Um ,could you tell us some of the challenges you think our survivors may have faced.

World Water Day Intern (Fussing in front of camera)

Oh um....they're probably thirsty. Yes, that's it, they are probably thirsty. Does this hat look okay?

TV Announcer

Okay thanks for that piece of insight..moving along to our hidden cameras on the survivors.

Survivor Group 1 _

I would give anything to be back at school.

Survivor group 2

Even doing math homework?

Survivor Group 2

Whatever.

Survivor Group 1

Come on we need to think! We're running out of drinking water! Now what did Mrs. (insert teacher name) teach us last year in our science unit about condensation?

Survivor Group

I don't remember, but I sure am getting thirsty looking out at all this water in the ocean.

Survivor Group 1

Well don't even think about drinking it.

Survivor Group 2

Why not?

Survivor Group 1

I **was** paying attention for that part of the class. You can't drink salt water because it will make you really sick. Now what was that about condensation that Mrs. (insert teacher name) taught us? (walks away thinking)

Survivor Group 2

But wait how will the salt water make me sick. It looks just like our drinking water.

Survivor Group 1

Remember the ocean has 3.5% rate of salinity...far more sodium than any food we eat. You have to break this all of the way down to cells. When a cell takes in seawater, it also takes in salt. Salt will dehydrate the cell so if the cells dehydrate, you dehydrate.

Survivor Group 2

Okay fine I'll die of thirst instead. Too bad for all the thirsty people in the world because 97 percent of all of the water on earth is salt water. I hope it rains soon. (looking up at clouds)

ACT II

(Cut back to TV Announcer, Intern is jumping up and down)

TV Announcer

What is it? What are you so excited about?

Quirky College Conservation Intern

Now I remember! The survivors are facing the same problem that millions of people around the world face!"

TV Announcer

What's that?

Quirky College Conservation Intern

Access to fresh clean drinking water! Less than 1 percent of the worlds' fresh water is readily accessible for direct human use. And the water that IS available many times is polluted or lacks necessary sanitation processes.

TV Announcer

Oh-oh, are our survivors in trouble?

Quirky College Conservation Intern

No, I went to school with a couple of them. If they were listening in science class they will figure out how to find drinking water.

TV Announcer

Thanks ,now back to our survivors.

ACT III

Fish

(walk on as group)

Hey , don't forget to tell your audience about us?

TV Announcer

Who are you?

Head Fish

Oh I'm just a poor fish who is getting sick and tired of all the pollution in the ocean ruining my home! I heard you were filming today so I brought some of my fish friends to protest pollution in the ocean. Take it away fish!

Protesting Fish (start walking back and forth in front of cameras with protest signs chanting)

Keep our waters clean! Keep our waters clean! Keep our waters clean!

TV Announcer

Geesh what day! Fish,I will interview you after our show. Now please keep the noise down!

(fish sit down)

TV Announcer

And finally back to our show.

Survivor Group 2

Hey where is our other group?

Survivor Group 1

I don't know. I'm tired let's take a nap

(all sleep against each others backs)

(Enter Survivor Group 3)

Survivor Group 3 - A Group

I know the answer about where to get water is right in front of us.

Now I know why cultures all around the world have stories, and myths, and gods and goddesses, all in respect of water. I never thought so much about water until we ran out of water two days ago when it stopped raining.

Survivor Group 3 - B Group

Maybe we should close our eyes and ask a water spirit to come to us and ask for help.

Survivor Group 3 - A Group

That's just silly!

Survivor Group 3 - B Group

Well do you have a better idea?"

Survivor Group 3 - A Group

Not really.

Survivor Group 3 - B Group

I read that some cultures think spirits from nature come to them in their dreams. Let's take a nap and think about water and maybe we'll get some help from the spirit world.

Survivor Group 3 - A Group

Whatever.

(all take a nap)

(water spirits enter with large blue cloth dancing around all the sleeping students)

Water Spirits (chanting)

Rest your mind, clear your mind , the answer is in nature,
rest your mind, clear your mind the answer is in nature.

Look to the skys and be refreshed,

look to the skys and be refreshed

ACT IV

TV Announcer

Well folks it looks like our survivors have called to the water spirits for some help.

Fish (all jump up)

What about us! We need help too!

TV Announcer

Okay fish what exactly do you need?

Head Fish (Pulls out a piece of paper... clears his throat)

We need factories to stop dumping waste in our oceans

All fish

Power to the fish!

Head Fish

We need tourists on small islands to stop throwing plastic water bottles in the ocean.

All Fish

Power to the fish!

Head Fish

We need oil companies to stop oil spills.

All Fish

Power to the fish!

TV Announcer

Okay fish, we're getting the message. How long is your list?"

Head Fish

(keeps pulling out longer and longer roll of paper)

About six feet long. (sound effect ba da da)

TV Announcer

Fish you need your own show. I'll have my people contact your people.

All Fish

Power to the fish! Power to the fish!

TV Announcer

Okay back to see how our survivors are doing.

ACT V

(Survivor Group 3 wake up)

Survivor Group 3 A

Well did you get a message from the water spirits?

Survivor Group 3 B

We did, it was something about looking up to the sky.

Survivor Group 3 A

Me too! I got the same message!

(Group starts jumping up and down hugging each other)

(Survivor Group 1 and 2 walk back in scene and stare at the Survivor Group jumping up and down)

Survivor Group 2

Whatever.

Survivor Group 1

What are you all so excited about?

Survivor Group 3 A & B

The water spirits! The sky! We can get water by looking up to the sky!

Survivor Group 2

It's not raining!

Survivor Group 1

I got it! Follow me to the trees!

(They all walk a few steps)

Survivor Group 1

(looks up)

There it is guys, our answer.

Survivor Group 2

What do you mean?

Survivor Group 1

Remember, condensation on the leaves? The hot air hitting the cool leaves?

Survivor Group 2 & 3

Thank you teachers! We remember this from our class! We can drink the water made from condensation on the leaves!

(all jump up and down and reach for leaves on the trees)

TV Announcer

Well folks it looks like it paying attention in class came in handy for this survivor group.

Tune in next week as we bring you a special program about the f..

(before announcer completes the word fish all fish began walking in circle and chanting)

Power to the fish! Power to the fish!

(scene fades with fish walking in circle with protest signs and survivor groups working together to collect condensation)

OPTIONS: Ask your students to create a closing statement they would like the audience to hear about something important they learned from their experience.