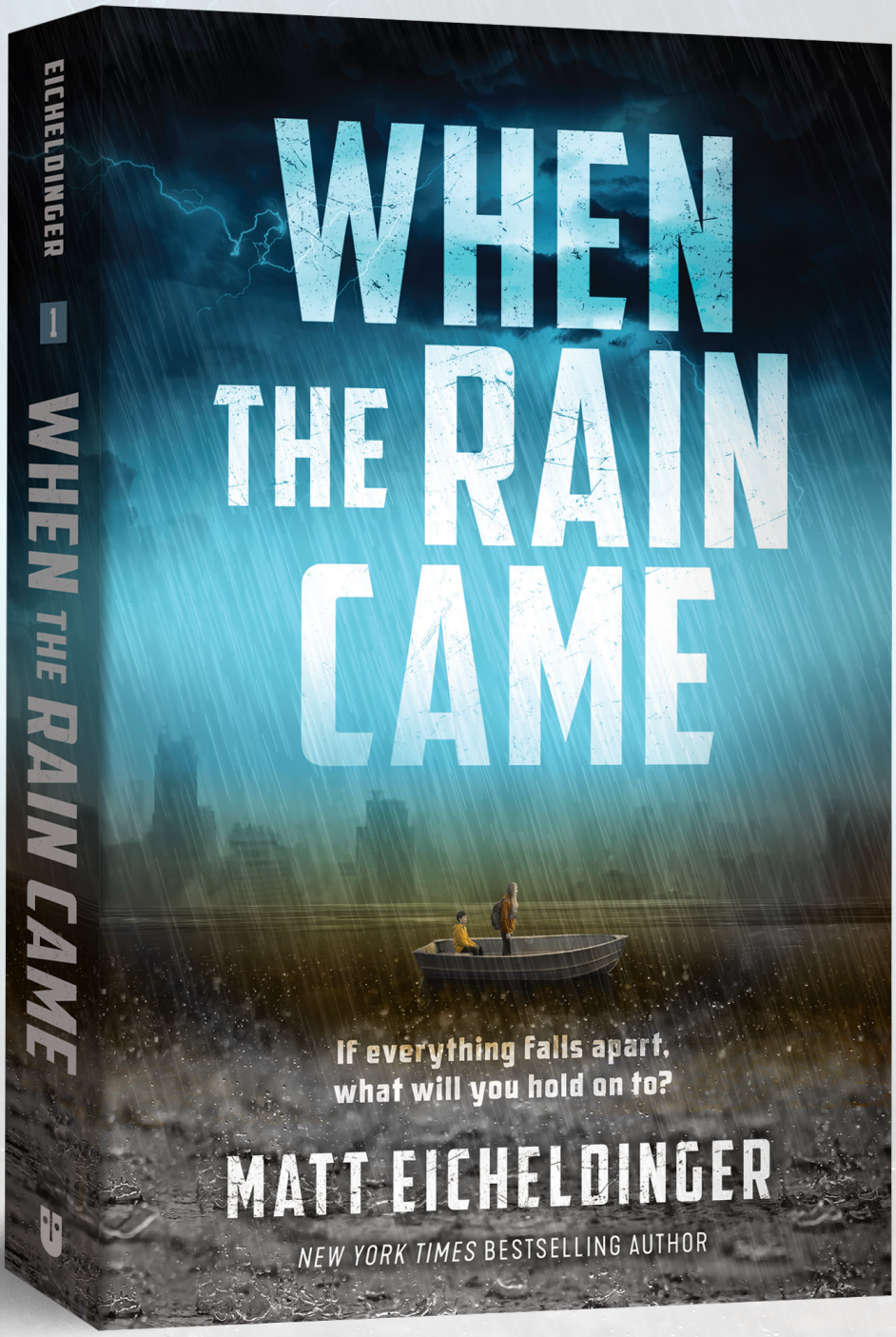
ACTIVITY GUIDE



WHEN THE RAIN CAME

THE FLOOD SURVIVAL CHALLENGE

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

PURPOSE

This game puts students in a post-flood survival scenario. Teams must think critically, communicate, and work together to prioritize supplies for safety and survival. It pairs with the themes from *When the Rain Came*—resilience, resourcefulness, and collaboration.

SCENARIO

A massive flood has overtaken most of your town. You made it to the rooftop of a sturdy building before the waters rose too high. Rescue teams are looking for survivors, but communication is limited. You have a small inflatable raft and a paddle. Before escaping, you managed to grab 15 items.

Now, you must decide which of these items are most important to keep you safe, healthy, and hopefully help you get rescued.

Your task:

Rank the 15 items in order of importance—1 being the most important, 15 the least. First, decide on your own. Then, discuss with your group and create a team ranking.

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1 – Individual Thinking (10 minutes):
Teacher: Hand each student a ranking sheet. Each student should rank the 15 items on their own using the chart (Step 1 column).

Step 2 – Team Discussion (20 minutes):
Teacher: Place students into teams (3-4 students per team is ideal). As a team, have students share their reasoning and re-rank the items to create a final team ranking (Step 2 column).

Step 3 – Compare with the Expert List:

Teacher: Go through the Expert List Analysis page, talking through the ranking and explanation of each object. Students should add these ranks to their own sheet (Step 3 column).

Students should then check their individual ranking against the Expert Ranking. For each item, calculate the difference between each individual item ranking from the Expert's ranking. After the individual ranking, students should do the same for their team. Add up Step 4 to get your final individual score. Add up Step 5 to get final team score.
The **lower the total score, the better** your chances of survival.

Items	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
	Your individual ranking	Your team ranking	Expert Ranking	Difference between Step 1 and 3	Different between Step 2 and 3
Rain Jacket	2	5	12	10	7
Map of the Neighborhood	7	10	14	7	4

Step 4 – Debrief (Optional Discussion):

- What changed your mind in the discussion?
- Were any items more or less important than expected?
- Did your team work well together?
- What would you do differently next time?
- Which team had the best score?

FLOOD SURVIVAL CHALLENGE: RANKING SHEET

Items	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
	Your individual ranking	Your team ranking	Expert Ranking	Difference between Step 1 and 3	Different between Step 2 and 3
Rain Jacket					
Map of the Neighborhood					
Phone with partial battery					
Reusable water bottles (full)					
Whistle					
Waterproof flashlight					
Backpack (empty)					
Tarp or plastic sheeting					
One roll of Duct tape					
Bag of trail mix and granola bars					
Walkie-talkie (only 1 works)					
Extra clothes (in a dry bag)					
Bag of candy					
Hatchet					
First-aid kit					
				Total of above scores	*Total of above scores*

EXPERT RANKING: EXPLANATION

Item	Expert Ranking	Expert Explanation
Rain Jacket	**12**	Staying dry is one of the most important things in a survival situation. A rain jacket keeps you warm and reduces your risk of illness. Wet clothes lead to chafing, rashes, and loss of body heat. In a flood, even a simple rain jacket can help you stay healthy and keep moving.
Map of the Neighborhood	**14**	Maps are only useful if you know where you are and where you want to go. If landmarks are underwater or street signs are missing, the map may be confusing. Still, it might help if you are forced to leave your rooftop and navigate on foot. It's a backup option—not essential, but possibly helpful.
Phone with partial battery	**6**	Even if it only has a little charge left, a phone can be a powerful tool. You might be able to call for help, use GPS to understand your location, or use the flashlight feature. It can also store important info or photos of your surroundings. While it's not as reliable as other items, that small chance of contact can be life-saving.
Reusable water bottles (full)	**2**	Clean drinking water is often unavailable during or after a flood. Contaminated water can carry bacteria or chemicals that make people very sick. Having pre-filled water bottles ensures you stay hydrated while you wait for help or make your way to safety. It's one of the first things rescuers recommend having in any emergency.
Whistle	**11**	A whistle can be heard much farther than your voice and uses far less energy to blow. This makes it a smart way to call for help or alert others to your position, especially if you're tired or injured. It's also good for group coordination—helpful in fog, rain, or crowded rescue situations. A small item, but potentially a very loud and useful one.
Waterproof flashlight	**1**	In a post-flood world where power is likely out, being able to see in the dark is essential. A waterproof flashlight helps you avoid injuries, navigate flooded areas safely, and find gear. It can also be used to signal for help—flashing a beam at night could alert rescuers to your location. It's one of the most versatile and life-saving tools you can have when visibility is low.
Backpack (empty)	**13**	This item helps you carry all the others! An empty backpack may not seem exciting, but it allows you to move hands-free and stay balanced. In emergencies, it's important to be mobile and organized. You can also use it as a dry bag, pillow, or to transport water or food for others.
Tarp or plastic sheeting	**4**	A tarp can be used in several critical ways: as shelter from rain or wind, as a barrier from dirty water, or even to collect rainwater for drinking. It's lightweight and flexible, making it easy to set up quickly. You can also use it to signal for help or to keep supplies dry. This one item can act like a roof, blanket, and water catcher all in one.

EXPERT RANKING: EXPLANATION (CONT.)

One roll of Duct tape	**9**	Duct tape is one of the most flexible survival tools you can have. It can patch a hole in your raft, seal a leak in your tarp, or be used to fix gear. You can even make makeshift shoes, splints, or rope with it. When something breaks—and something always breaks—duct tape can help you fix it fast.
Bag of trail mix and granola bars	**5**	These foods are high in calories and nutrients, giving your body the energy it needs to stay alert and active. They also last a long time without spoiling and don't need to be cooked. Hunger affects your ability to think clearly and make smart choices—especially in a stressful situation. Having easy-to-carry snacks helps you stay strong and focused.
Walkie-talkie (only 1 works)	**8**	Even though only one works, it could connect to emergency crews or other people nearby. It's especially useful if your group separates or needs to send someone for help. Walkie-talkies don't rely on cell towers, so they're more likely to function in emergencies. It's not guaranteed, but it adds an important layer of communication.
Extra clothes (in a dry bag)	**7**	Wet clothes can make you cold very quickly, even in mild temperatures. Staying dry helps your body maintain its warmth and reduces the risk of hypothermia. Extra clothes can also serve as padding, a makeshift pillow, or even bandages in a pinch. Having something warm and dry is a huge comfort when everything else is soaked.
Bag of candy	**15**	Candy might make you feel better emotionally, and sugar gives a quick burst of energy—but it doesn't last. It's not a good long-term food source and won't keep you full. It also doesn't help with any other survival needs like shelter, safety, or hydration. While fun, it's the least useful item on this list.
Hatchet	**10**	A hatchet is helpful for breaking through debris, building shelter, or cutting small branches to support a tarp. It can also be used to open containers or clear a path if you're traveling. In emergencies, tools like this turn the environment into resources. While it should be used carefully, it's a powerful survival aid when used wisely.
First-aid kit	**3**	In flooded or unstable environments, injuries are likely—cuts, scrapes, or sprains can happen easily. A first-aid kit allows you to clean wounds, apply bandages, and prevent infections that could become dangerous without medical attention. It also provides peace of mind, knowing you're prepared to help yourself or a teammate. Even small medical tools can make a big difference.

PRE-DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What emotions or images come to mind when you think about endless rain or flooding?
2. How do you imagine people might change, for better or worse, if the world began to flood?
3. What sort of dangers might lurk in the water if the entire world is flooding?
4. Think about your home and neighborhood. If there was a sudden flood, where would you go? How would you get there?
5. The story centers around survival and human nature. What qualities do you think are most important when everything familiar disappears?
6. What does the word "home" mean to you? Is it a place, people, or a feeling?
7. What if you were stuck in a survival situation with a complete stranger, how would you decide if you can trust them or not?
8. What would it take for you to lose trust in someone close to you?
9. If you had to pack one backpack to leave home suddenly, what five things would you take with you and why?
10. Have you ever felt like you were left behind or forgotten? What helped you get through that moment?
11. Have you ever experienced the power of nature? What happened?
12. Do you think people are generally good at working together during a crisis? Why or why not?
13. What kinds of leaders do you think emerge when the world is falling apart? What makes them dangerous or inspiring?
14. When everything changes, what parts of your identity do you think would remain the same?

POST-DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What were your first impressions of the Aurora, and how did they change throughout the story?
2. What scene or image stayed with you most after finishing the book, and why?
3. How does When The Rain Came blend survival, hope, and moral choice in ways that feel relevant today?
4. The foster parents leave to find "the Hill." How did their decision impact your view of family and loyalty?
5. What do you think motivates the Aurora more: survival, belonging, or curiosity?
6. How do the memories of life before the flood influence Aurora's actions after being left behind?
7. What does the story suggest about what it means to be "family"?
8. Kota is convinced the Dark Pools in the water are the "Shui Gui." Knowing there is a second book in the series coming, what role do you think they will play? Do you think they are real, or a something else?
9. The Hill represents safety for some and danger for others. What does it symbolize to you?
10. If you were in the Aurora's position, would you still have gone looking for the Hill? Why or why not?
11. What other decisions did Aurora make that you do / do not agree with?
12. What decisions did Niko and Jada make that you do / do not agree with?
13. How does the constant rain mirror the Aurora's emotional journey?
14. What role does resilience play in the story, and how does Aurora embody or redefine it?
15. How does nature function as both a destroyer and a teacher in the novel?
16. What does the book suggest about finding hope in uncertain times?
17. Water and flooding recur throughout the book — what do you think they symbolize beyond survival?
18. What small moments or objects felt especially symbolic or important to you (a keepsake, a gesture, a phrase)?
19. How does the story explore the difference between survival and truly living?
20. How does this story connect to our current world — climate change, community, or isolation?
21. The Aurora's journey is deeply personal but also universal. In what ways did it make you reflect on your own life, identity, or beliefs about what "home" means?
22. What do you think is next for Niko, Jada, Kota, and Aurora?