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# Shackleton's Stowaway

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1. Activity One:

1. If I were in the same situation that Perce was in, I would have a very hard time. I am not very accustomed to the amounts of hard labor that these men had to go through in order to survive. I would probably have gone directly on the life boat to South Georgia Island, and not have detoured to Elephant Island. However, if the crew had done that, they most likely would have died of starvation as they would have no source of food.
2. I most certainly do not have what it takes to survive in this environment. Living in the 21st century, people are a lot more accustomed to having basic necessities provided for them, and most people have never have to survive only on their own skills and willpower. I am a prime example of this. I am fortunate enough to have grown up in a household that has running water and indoor toilets. I have never eaten a seal. I have never shot a dog. I have never been in an environment that is colder than -1 degrees. And I most certainly haven't had scurvy. I love mandarins.

2. Perce did make a mistake when he stowed away on the Endurance. While he did have many exiting experiences and make some very good friends, he lost his toes, and endured many hard conditions. For example, he had to live off nothing but limpets and seaweed. He had to survive four months doing nothing but lying down and waiting for Shackleton to find a boat and rescue them. Not to mention, Perce was very lucky that Shackleton was good humor end and allowed him to come along. On another ship with a different captain, he may have just been made to leave the ship by *other means*.

3. Letter to Billy from Perce:

My dear friend Billy,

I am writing to you to reminisce. In passing thought, I remembered all the wonderful moments we had together. As promised, I ate much bread and butter. In fact, it has become a prominent tradition. I remembered, as I wrote that last part, that I never emphasized one point. When you left me in the house with Doc, I did really want you to leave. I hope it helped you some. Thank you, sincerely, for all of the times that you put yourself forward for me. When Doc amputated my toes, when I passed out when we reached Elephant Island, and in general, for keeping me in strong spirits and in good heart, even though you were the one to have gotten me onto the wretched ship in the first place! I really did enjoy the times we had together. As I sit on my comfy armchair, in front of my fire, I cannot help but remember the cold, hard void of the Antarctic Continent. And I am grateful. I am grateful to you, to Shackleton, and Doc, and I am grateful to the fates, for allowing me to embark on such a

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wonderful adventure with my friends. No. I'm wrong. I am grateful to the fates for allowing me to embark on such a wonderful adventure and forge new friendships. Friendships that are time and battle tested, and friends that we all know will stand by each-other's sides, even in the darkest of times. Thank you, Billy, for assisting me through dark times and through light, and for being there, even when I was hurt.

Until Next time, Perce.

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1. Personal: I am inspired by the revolutionaries that thought they could make a difference in the world, and did. When Ada Lovelace wrote a computer program for the first time, the first one ever to be created, she did what many thought was absurd, or even impossible. When Alan Turing created the first computer with built in memory, many people believed that he couldn't, just because he was homosexual. When Xerox PARC created the GUI, mouse, and overlaying Windows, people didn't believe in the use of those things. Nowadays, without the innovations of these thinkers and creators, we would be using DOS prompts on computers the size of cars with \$1,000,000 flash drives (No joke!), and we would only be using them for simple arithmetic. No Snapchat.

2. Textual: In *Martian*, astronaut Mark Watney is faced with surviving in the hard Martian environment, with only potatoes, food rations, and failing systems. He has no way of communicating with mission control, and no one even knows he is still alive. Similar to *Shackleton's Stowaway*, the main character is placed in an extreme, isolated environment, where he must try to survive. And in both stories, the main character survives and is able to rejoin humanity. However, in *The Martian*, the story takes place in a futuristic and fictional environment, where the main character has different struggles and problems. I have noticed that in both stories, the people surviving seem to be having a very hard time obtaining water and food.

3. Cultural: When the crew of the *Endurance* returns to humanity, they are treated like heroes, because even through times of hardship and struggle, they managed to keep each other alive and care for each other. They also gathered important scientific information and paved the way for others. People tend to admire survivors of extreme danger because they have proven that they are tough and willing to go to extreme lengths to save themselves and others.