***127 Hours: Between a Rock and a Hard Place* Post A2 SL**

**Reading Check**

**Answer as many questions as you can in 10 minutes.**

1. **Who is the author?**

*Aron Ralston*

1. **Who is the main character?**

*Aron Ralston*

1. **From which point of view/perspective is the story told?**

*First person – switches from present tense to past tense depending on the chapter*

1. **Which genre is this book?**

*autobiography*

1. **The story begins with an extract from a famous work of literature. Name it.**

*The Odyssey by Homer*

1. **How are the chapters organized?**

*The chapters switch between memories of past experiences and his current predicament. Each chapter opens with an epigraph.*

Chapter 1

1. **In which state is the main character hiking?***Utah*
2. **Who does he meet when hiking the canyon?***Two girls named Megan and Kristi*
3. **Which arm gets pinned by the boulder?***His right arm*
4. **Besides the obvious, describe a problem that the main character faces.***He has minimal water, he failed to leave a detailed description of his trip with a friend or family member*

Chapter 2

1. **Did the main character always enjoy the outdoors? Circle YES or NO***No – he was born in Indiana and was terrified to move to Colorado with his family.*
2. **What type of animal does he encounter after setting up camp?***A bear*
3. **What did the animal want?***His food supply*
4. **Name two ways in which he tries to get rid of the animal**.  
    *He hops on a tree stump and waves a stick in the air, he screams at the bear and says, “Give me my food back, bear!”, he puts the food in a tree.*

Chapter 3

1. **What does he drop and how is he able to get them back?***His bike lock key. He gets them back by putting a stick between his toes and dragging it toward him.*
2. **What does he do in order to sit for a few moments?***He uses his harness, the ropes, and his carabineer to devise a seat.*
3. **What type of bird flies over his head in the canyon and why might that be significant?***A raven – It symbolizes death and could symbolize here that time is short/running out.*
4. **When does he think the rescue team will find him?**

*The following Sunday, in which case he will be dead.*

Chapter 4

1. **While with his sister at a waterfall, what does he fall on?**  
   *A cactus*
2. **Describe one of his “stupidest moments ever.”***He cannonballed into the Colorado river without a lifejacket and almost drowned*
3. **The author mentions “fourteeners” quite often. Describe this and why it is important.***They are mountains that exceed 14,000 feet. Aron makes it a goal to climb all of them.*
4. **Why did he quit his job? Bonus: How old was he when he quit?**

*He wanted to climb Denali, the highest mountain in North America, but didn’t have the vacation time. He wanted to pursue his passions and dreams. He was 26 years old and had only been working for 5 years when he ‘retired.’*

Chapter 5

1. **Why does he shout for help?**  
   *He thinks he hears canyoneers off in the distance but it ends up being a kangaroo rat. He becomes disturbed by the desperation in his own voice and vows to only shout for help once a day.*
2. **Why does he ultimately feel like his entrapment is his fault?**

*He’s been looking for adventure his whole life and he finally found it. He insisted on climbing alone for many years and this was bound to happen.*

1. **He pulls out a camcorder and records himself. Describe what he says.**

*He identifies himself and his parents and asks that the video be returned to them. He recounts the events of the previous day and shows his trapped arm. He describes the four options he is facing and how he has tried all of them. He talks about the possibility of being found and when he thinks that will happen. He gives his final goodbyes to his family and ends by apologizing for not leaving a note or telling anybody where he is.*

1. **After the recording, which of the four strategies does he decide to pursue?**

*He decides to make himself warm, manage his water intake, and conserve his energy. He has decided to wait for someone to find him.*

Chapter 6

1. **On one of his climbs, the main character sustained terrible frostbite on which part of his body?**  
   *Both of his hands*
2. **On a backcountry ski trip, what near-death situation did he and two friends find himself in?**   
   *An avalanche*
3. **Why does he say, “I lost two friends that Sunday because of the choices we made; Mark and Chadwick left the next morning, and they haven’t spoken to me since.” (141)?**

*Aron pushed the limits and pressure the other two to ski the bowl, which ultimately caused the avalanche. He took a risk when he shouldn’t have and didn’t listen to the danger signs.*

Chapter 7

1. **Why does he wrap climbing rope around his legs?**  
   *To keep warm at night*
2. **What is the saying that his friend Rob used to say to him? The main character thinks of this saying often in this chapter.**

*“It’s not what you do but who you are”*

1. **Which story does he recall that inspires him to think that he will continue climbing if he survives this experience?**

*He met a man named Warren MacDonald at the Bamf Film Festival who lost both of his legs from a hiking accident. Warren had pulled a car-sized boulder on top of him during a climb in Tasmania and was trapped for two days. Fortunately for him, Warren had a friend nearby who was able to go for help. Warren spent two years recovering and learning to use his prosthetics and now continues to climb.*

1. **What time marker dictates when he pulls out his camcorder?**

*At the 24 hour/48 hour mark*