

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT WORKSHEET TWO

# TOGETHER FOREVER

Louis Zamperini's World War II bomber was headed for disaster, and everyone aboard knew it. As the ocean rushed up to meet them, the crew braced for a crash. A thunderous impact was followed by a rush of water and a struggle to exit the plane.

When Louis emerged from the sinking plane and finally got his head above water, he looked around for his fellow airmen. He saw two and swam over. They piled into two small life rafts, thrilled to find each other alive. Soon the water was full of circling sharks. Their situation would get even more dire as the days went on.

At one point, a Japanese plane shot at the men and punctured their rafts. It took all three of them to patch the sinking rafts while fending off sharks.

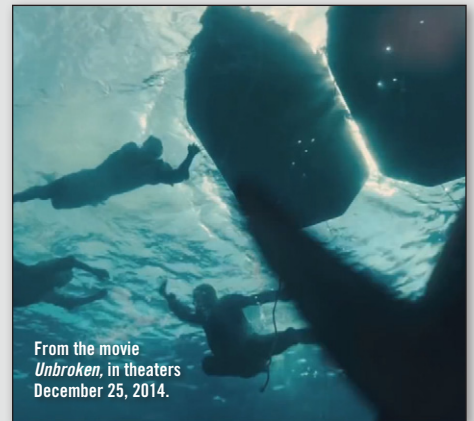
The men quickly ran out of food and freshwater. They spent their days telling stories and sharing any food they caught. They tried to keep a positive outlook and told themselves that they would survive. Always trying to keep spirits high, Louis once even gave thanks for an especially beautiful moment on the ocean. Working together, two of the men survived afloat for 47 days.

Eventually they were found by Japanese soldiers and became prisoners of war. The conditions in the camp were terrible, and the American soldiers helped each other in any ways they could. They shared food and news from the outside world and looked out for each other. Louis had a particularly hard time in the camps because an especially abusive camp director often targeted him.

However, he mustered every ounce of inner strength and optimism and survived until the end of the war. Along the way, he helped others and encouraged them to be optimistic as well.

During these difficult times, Louis recalled the memories of his family back home. In the movie *Unbroken*, we see how closely knit his family was, like birds of a feather. Being so close to them helped Louis realize the value of working together as a team. These lessons enabled him to form bonds with his fellow soldiers, both in the life rafts and in the prison camp. Working together, many of them survived.

Louis Zamperini's story of survival and the close relationship he had with his family has inspired other American families for decades.



### ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

1. American history is rich with stories about men and women who worked together to achieve great things. Why do you think teamwork has proven to be so important throughout our country's history? Please use examples within the text to support your answer.
2. What do Louis's experiences tell us about the value of uniting with others as a way to overcome life's challenges?
3. When have you personally teamed up with someone or a group of people to overcome a challenge?

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT WORKSHEET THREE

# UNITY AND OPTIMISM

Louis Zamperini survived many frightening ordeals during World War II, but he didn't do it alone. Louis frequently relied upon his fellow soldiers for support. Louis's story demonstrates the need for unity and teamwork in tough situations. No one wants to be alone in a crisis, and in the following challenge, you won't have to be!

From the movie *Unbroken*,  
in theaters December 25, 2014.



**INSTRUCTIONS:** In designated teams, get your “dangerous assignment” from your teacher and write it below. This situation will test your survival skills. You will have 15 minutes to get to know your teammates and to develop a plan. The clock is ticking!

Brainstorm how you would escape the situation using the different skills in your group. You must have a written plan before the buzzer sounds. Elect a spokesperson for the group to share your survival plan with the class!



From the movie *Unbroken*,  
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THE SCENARIO \_\_\_\_\_

### THE TEAM'S NAMES AND SKILLS

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### THE PLAN

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