

Extreme situations: Authors

1 Listening/Writing: *My sister's keeper* by Jodie Picoult

a) Go to Jodie Picoult's website and listen to her podcast about her novel *My sister's keeper*.



[Jodie Picoult: My sister's keeper](#)

b) Listening to the podcast, collect as much information about this book as you possibly can.

c) Listen to other podcasts on this page and watch the video footage available.

d) Write a **review** of the book for a school magazine. In your review, you should:

- summarise the book
- explain its background
- describe the author

Write a **review** of about **250 words**. Give your review a **title**.

2 Writing: Jon Krakauer

a) Find as much information as you can about the author Jon Krakauer, who wrote *Into the wild*.

b) Imagine you had to write an **article** about Jon Krakauer for a students' magazine. In your article, you should:

- describe his background
- mention his works
- discuss what makes his books so interesting and successful

Write an **article** of about **250 words**. Give your article a **title**.

3 Writing: Nick Hornby

a) Nick Hornby, the author of books like *Slam* (see Prime Time 6, unit 1) and *A long way down has an autistic son*. In this short interview on his website he talks about this situation.



[Nick Hornby talks about his son who has autism](#)

b) Read an article on Nick Hornby, in which he talks about the TreeHouse Trust and the situation of autistic people and their parents.



[About Nick's boy](#)

b) Read more about the charity Ambitious about autism.



[Ambitious about autism](#)

c) Prepare a summary of the activities of Ambitious about autism. In your summary, you should:

- explain what autism is
- describe the problems of people with autism
- discuss the situation of the parents
- present the activities of this charity



Extreme situations: Survival

1 Spoken presentation: Aron Ralston

a) In April 2003 Aron Ralston was trapped by a boulder in Bluejohn Canyon. Read his story, watch the video and take notes.



[Climber who cut off arm looks back](#)



[127 hours interview with Aron Ralston](#)

b) Prepare a presentation about Aron Ralston and deliver it in class. In your presentation, you should:

- describe the situation in which Aron suddenly found himself
- discuss his options
- explain how he could escape
- evaluate his approach to the situation

c) Discuss Aron Ralston's story in class. The following questions may give you some ideas.

- What do you think of his activities?
- Do you agree with his explanation why he had to free himself?
- What is your reaction to the interview with him?

2 Speaking: How to beat the odds

a) With a partner, choose one of these four stories each and prepare it.

- Avalanche
- Bridge collapse
- Lost at sea
- Plane crash



[Survival stories: How four men beat the odds in extreme situations](#)

b) Talk to each other and explain your situation and how it was possible to survive.

c) Compare the situations and find similarities and/or differences.

d) Read the text your partner has talked about.

3 Watching a video/Writing: Interview with Captain Chesley Sullenberger

a) Watch this video on YouTube and take notes about the events that are retold.



[Hudson river plane crash pilot remembers the "Miracle on the Hudson"](#)

b) Write a newspaper report about the events told by Captain Chesley Sullenberger. In your report, you should:

- describe the situation
- quote from the interview with Captain Sullenberger
- comment on the pilot's and the air-traffic controllers' reaction

c) Compare your report with one you have found on the internet.