

Who Should Survive?

A severe storm has crippled a small ship, the *S.S. Guppy*, and the only remaining lifeboat has room for only seven people. You have no hope of reaching civilization, but there's a fairly good chance that you can make it to one of many small, uncharted, and unpopulated islands in the area. You may have to remain on such an island for years. Your task is to choose which seven people should be allowed on the lifeboat, and hence, be allowed to survive. You and your group have already set off for the island on the other lifeboat and these people will be joining you and helping in your survival.

This decision must be reached by CONSENSUS in your group. Discussion of important values will lead you. After you have chosen, list the values you used to determine whose life was more important than someone else's who has been left behind. When listing your values, frame them in terms of what each person contributes to the common good.

1. **Dr. Dane:** thirty-seven, white, no religious affiliation, Ph.D. in history, college professor, in good health (jogs daily), hobby is botany, enjoys politics, married with one child (Bobby).
2. **Mrs. Dane:** thirty-eight, white, Jewish, rather obese, diabetic, M.A. in psychology, counselor in a mental health clinic, married to Dr. Dane, has one child.
3. **Bobby:** ten, white, Jewish, physically fit and curious, mentally retarded with IQ of 70.
4. **Mrs. Garcia:** twenty-three, Spanish-American, Catholic, ninth-grade education, cocktail waitress, worked as a prostitute (not by choice) , married at age sixteen, divorced at age eighteen.
5. **Jean Garcia:** three months old, Spanish-American, healthy.
6. **Mary Evans:** eighteen, black, Protestant, trade school education, wears glasses, artistic.
7. **Mr. Newton:** twenty-five, black power advocate, starting last year of medical school, suspected homosexual activity, music as a hobby, physical fitness nut.
8. **Mrs. Clark:** twenty-eight, black, Protestant, daughter of a minister, college graduate, electronics engineer, single now after a brief marriage, member of Zero Population.
9. **Mr. Blake:** fifty-one, white, Mormon, B.S. in mechanics, married with four children, enjoys outdoors, much experience in construction, quite handy, sympathizes with anti-black views.
10. **Father Franz:** thirty-seven, white, Catholic, priest, active in civil rights, former college athlete, farming background, often criticized for liberal views.
11. **Dr. Gonzales:** sixty-six, Spanish-American, Catholic, doctor in general practice, two heart attacks in the past five years, loves literature and quotes extensively.

Driving Questions for consideration: (add these when the conversation begins to wander, or hand them out at the beginning with the assignment)

- If a family suffers the loss of another family member, presumably at your hands, why would they be willing to help you?
- Do the weakest members of a society deserve more protection than other members?
- Is a history of aggression toward a group or sector of society an indication that further aggression will follow in a time of emergency?
- How do you weigh the potential contributions of one member above other members?