Climb or Die Vocabulary
Mrs. Tate
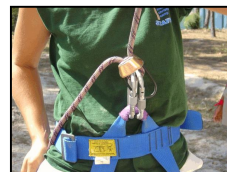
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Belay
˝ (n.) to secure at the end of a rope, in mountain climbing

˝ The climber *belayed* the rope.

carabiners
˝ (n.) In mountain climbing, oval rings that attach a rope to a piton

˝ The climbers used the carabiners to keep the rope securely attached.

desperate
˝ (n.) feeling full of despair, hopeless

˝ She started looking aroung in a different, almost desperate way.

Synonym: forlorn, hopeless
Antonyms: ecstatic, elated

fatigue
˝ (n.) extreme tiredness
˝ Panting, gasping, and fighting the *fatigue* that left her close to passing out, Danielle managed to fumble up the trench…
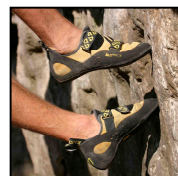
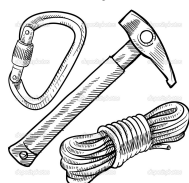**Synonym:** tiredness, exhaustion
Antonyms: energy, drive

foothold
˝ (n.) a place that gives firm support for a foot while climbing

˝ The climber struggled to find some kind of a *foothold* on the jagged slopes of the mountain.

functioned

˝ (n.) filled a particular purpose or role

˝ Before leaving for their trip, the climbers checked their gear to make sure it *functioned* properly.

ice ax

˝ (n.) an ax used by mountain climbers to cut steps in ice

˝ An *ice ax* is extremely useful when climbing in cold, and frozen conditions.

improvising

˝ (v.) making something from available materials

˝ When the climbers lost their gear, they had to *improvise* with what they could find around them.

Improvise Adapt Overcome

Synonyms: devise
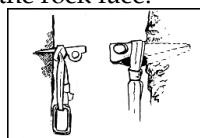*Antonyms:* arrange, prepare

overcome

˝ (n.) to conquer

˝ He'd *overcome* the pain, the fear, the doubt that he would continue.

Synonym: conquer, defeat
Antonym: fail

CONQUER YOUR FEARS

pitons

˝ (n.) metal spikes, used in mountain climbing, with eyes or rings at one end through which a rope can be passed

˝ The climbers used the *pitons* to secure their rope to the rock face.

Story Background - Mountain Climbing

˝ How dangerous is mountain climbing?

˝ Does it require courage?

˝ Would mountain climbing be more dangerous in summer or winter? Or, both?

Connecting/Comparing

˝ Why does this story belong in the same theme as *Passage to Freedom* and *Hatchet*?