

October 2, 2013

Dear Students,

It is 10:10 PM right now – I just got home about an hour ago, from the first night of this class I'm taking at Rice on the Iliad (it's nice to remember myself what it feels like to be a student, and to have the chance to consider what good teaching looks like).

I was trying to figure out all day what I should have you do with to practice your vocabulary words, but nothing was coming to me. I still couldn't think of anything when I got home, so I decided to make some homemade Mexican chocolate ice cream (chocolate ice cream with chipotle chili powder and cinnamon), which was very delicious, but which still did not solve my problem of what to have you do for vocabulary.

Then I checked Facebook, and I came across this article from feminist blog Jezebel:

### **Awesome 8-Year-Old Gets Sexist Books Removed From Bookstore**

When Constance Cooper's eight-year-old daughter saw some ridiculously sexist kid's books as she was browsing for something to read at a local bookstore, she did something we all can do: See something, say something. Especially when that something is the Boys Only survival guide for "How to Survive a Plane Crash" next to the Girls Only survival guide for "How to Teach Your Cat to Sit".

Amazing, right? Check out the other Girls Only and Boys Only titles:

#### **For boys:**

Warning!  
How to Survive a Shark Attack  
How to Survive in a Forest  
How to Survive Frostbite  
How to Survive a Plane Crash  
How to Survive in a Desert  
How to Avoid a Polar Bear Attack  
How to Survive a Flash Flood  
How to Treat a Broken Leg  
How to Survive an Earthquake  
How to Survive a Forest Fire  
How to Survive in a Whiteout  
How to Survive a Zombie Invasion  
How to Survive a Snake Bite  
How to Survive If Your Parachute Fails  
How to Survive a Croc Attack  
How to Survive a Lightning Strike  
How to Survive a T-Rex  
How to Survive Whitewater Rapids  
How to Survive a Sinking Ship  
How to Survive a Vampire Attack  
How to Survive an Avalanche  
How to Survive a Tornado  
How to Survive Quicksand  
How to Survive a Fall  
How to Survive a Swarm of Bees  
How to Survive in Space

#### **For girls:**

How to Survive a BFF Fight  
How to Survive Football Trials  
How to Survive a Breakout  
How to Show You're Sorry  
How to Have the Best Sleepover Ever  
How to Look Your Best for a Party  
How to Survive Siblings  
Scary Survival Dos and Don'ts  
How to Handle Becoming Rich  
How to Keep Stuff Secret  
How to Survive Tests  
How to Survive Shyness  
How to Handle Sudden Stardom  
More Stardom Survival Tips  
How to Survive a Camping Trip  
How to Survive a Fashion Disaster  
How to Teach Your Cat to Sit  
How to Turn a No into a Yes  
Top Tips for Speech-making  
How to Survive Embarrassment  
How to Create a Diversion  
How to Survive a Crush  
Seaside Survival  
How to Soothe Sunburn  
How to Pick Perfect Sunglasses  
Surviving a Zombie Attack  
How to Spot a Frenemy  
Brilliant Boredom Busters  
How to Survive Truth or Dare  
How to Beat Bullies  
How to Be a Brilliant Baby-Sitter

My reaction to this was: Gah! Aaaaaah! EEEEEEEEE! And then it hit me – your vocabulary task today is to use your 10 medium-level vocabulary words to write about this article.

Hop to it,

Ms. Chapman