

Arienda Mufida

4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Red Cedar Elementary School, East Lansing

# STRANDED

“Can you handle being in a ship by yourself?” asked Dad

“C’mon Dad! I will always remember my taekwondo forms and my archery stuff. Besides, I’ve been doing them for years.”

“Ok then, good luck with your archery test Ariendra” said Dad as I walked into the ship.

As I searched for my room in the hallway of the ship, I checked the battery of my phone to call my little sister. My little sister was so stressed when she saw me packing up, she doesn't make many friends because she is too shy to make friends, basically I’m her only friend.

The ship is starting to move, and I am now in my room unpacking some of my stuff but I’m not unpacking my phone, bow, arrow, and some other important things (in case something happens).

A few hours had passed, and I finished unpacking my belongings. I was going to walk around the ship when I felt scraping under my feet, then suddenly “BEEP! This is Captain Argall speaking, the ship had crashed a rock, and we may be sinking, get your important things and come to the deck, we will be giving you lifejackets”

I ran to my room, got all my belongings and ran to the deck. As I reached the deck, I was squished, people were shouting, running, and mumbling about what would happen. I was so confused, the ship hadn't sunk yet, then I began to list all my important belongings, dang it! I forgot my arrows, so I ran down to my room as fast as I can, suddenly I heard some kind of splashing sound, it must be the water coming, that motivates me to run faster (the bad motivation) but I slipped on a puddle and fell in the water, no way I’m going to leave that arrow wet, so I swam to my room, got my arrows, swim to the deck. As soon as I reached the deck, the deck was empty, I couldn't believe it, they left me alone, tears ran out of my eyes, but I didn't have time to cry, I needed to survive.

As I look around the ship, I spotted islands near the ship, I need to swim to that island, actually, no, I need a canoe or a boat to approach the island, so I look

around for leftover lifeboats to float to the island, I spotted something orange, it must be a lifeboat, so I ran to it, but as soon as I was near enough to see it clearly, I saw a hole in it, a small one, I wish it will last until I landed on the island.

As I drop the lifeboat on the water, I felt the ship sinking faster and faster, so I jumped into the lifeboat and float to the island, then I realized it is almost night and I didn't eat anything at lunch, I didn't know why I did not feel the hunger when I was still at the ship, but now I AM STARVING!!!! I need to eat something, but what? I've read some survival stories when people struggle for food, so they had to eat bugs, ugh! But now I'm in a serious situation so I might have to eat bugs.

I started searching for bugs in the small woods of the island, it was dark there, and creepy. Suddenly I felt squelching under my feet, I quickly looked down at it's a small caterpillar with a black head! Eww! Then I realized the caterpillars with black heads are edible, there must be other caterpillars around here, it was hard to not squish the caterpillar while tripping on the roots, but I still got some on my hand wriggling (I know it's disgusting but I have to).

I finally collect enough bugs to eat but first, I need to cook them, I still remembered how to cook bugs from my survival book, so I started collecting the materials. The first material is three rectangular rocks to be my mini table, my second material is a fire to cook the bugs,

After I collected all the materials, I started to make the table. It was very hard, it had collapsed five times! And then finally my sixth time worked! It's time to cook! So I reached my hands to where I put the caterpillars but they weren't there, they must've escaped, then suddenly something I felt something that flew by my ear, then I looked back to see where the thing came from, as soon as I looked back, I saw a shell, it looks like an ice cream cone, but it has stripes with ALL the shades of brown, I slowly walked to the weird ice cream cone, suddenly the ice cream cone creature shoots a small arrow like thing to me, but it missed, that arrow like thingy looks suspicious and also familiar, then I remembered what the weird creature is, a cone snail (I remembered it from a kid show in Netflix that I used to watch when I was little) cone snails shoots venomous arrows to kill its prey, and that cone snail thinks I'm its prey! Anyways, I'm as hungry as the cone snail, I still need to eat something. Then I went back to the mini table to make sure it didn't collapse, suddenly, a strong wind came that made the mini table collapse

"AAARGH!! THIS IS THE WORST DAY OF MY LIFE!!" I screamed hysterically.

It is now nighttime and I haven't eaten anything since the caterpillars escaped and the mini table for cooking kept collapsing, also I can't sleep, I missed my parents and my little sister. I wish I could call for help somehow, I reached into my pocket to warm my hand, then I felt my phone, that's it!! My question is answered, I can call for help from my phone! So I grabbed my phone and started punching numbers but then "No Wi-Fi, please change your area!" Aaagh! Why didn't I think of that, obviously there is no Wi-Fi on this stupid island! Plus, it's dark, super dark, and super cold, and my only blanket is the sand.

I woke up with arrows flying over me, pretty sure that cone snail is starving, I got up with my archery stuff on my hand, I need to kill that cone snail (and kill something to eat) so I can have peace around me and have a free cone snail arrow raid. As soon as I killed the cone snail (which took ten minutes, I did have a little raid with the cone snail, no offense) I started to wait for birds to fly up above me so I could shoot them and eat them. After a few minutes, I saw some flocks of birds flying above my head. I quickly stood up, pulled an arrow out of my quiver, aimed the bird, bent my elbow and shot the arrow, but I missed, the second time, missed again the third time, I still missed, maybe catching birds is harder than I thought.

I started to think about some other ideas when suddenly a fish jumped out of the water, that's it! I can hunt for fish, I will use my arrow as a spear. After what felt like bazillion hour later, I spotted a fish swimming near the shallow water, I was ready for this, I have my arrow on my hand ready to kill that fish, when the fish are near enough for me to stab it with my arrow, I felt a sting on my arm, "Ouch!!" I screamed, oh no, I scared the fish away, then that sting came again, but it felt way worse than the first, "Ow!!!" I screamed again, it must be a sunburn, so I ran under a big shady tree, my arm is still stinging, I need something to cover my sunburn, but then I stepped on a mud, ew, then I took another step to get out of the mud, but I slipped on another mud and fell right on the mud, blech! And now, my sunburn is covered in mud, but I am glad that the mud didn't get all over my body. I ran to the water to wash my muddy hand but on the way, the sting on my sunburn was fading away, maybe I don't need to wash the mud away if it heals the sunburn.

After catching some more fish, I dug a hole for the fish and put some water in it so the fish can have a little more life before I eat it, that is what my dad always does when he is fishing, then I started to gather materials to make a fire. I didn't know what the materials were so I just picked random things to start a fire, I also didn't know how to make a teepee fire lay that won't collapse like my mini

table, so I just did random things. The first thing I did was putting three very long branches in a triangle shape, then I put a bunch of evergreen branches that I found in the forest of the island, after that, I scraped two rocks to make a spark, but it didn't work, I tried again, but it still didn't work, maybe I need something else to make the spark, then I stepped on my quiver, that's it! I can use the tip of my arrow to make the spark, so I took an arrow out of my quiver and scraped it to the rock, "YEESSS!" I shouted as the spark flew, but it went to my shirt "AAAH!" I screamed, without even thinking, I ran (or more like a sprint) to the freezing cold water, ugh, now I'm soaking with freezing water, then I dried my hand with the sand and tried it again, and this time, worked!

After I warmed myself up, I started grabbing some fish from my hole that I made for them, they're still alive, that's a good news because I gave them a little more time to be alive, and the bad news is that every time the fish is on my hand, it will jump out of my grip and slap my face with its tail and fall to the hole again, but I did it anyways. After a few minutes getting slapped by fishes, I decided to take a break, I lay down on the warm sand and looked up to the sky, then suddenly, I saw a helicopter flying towards the island, is someone going to rescue me?

The helicopter had been circling the island and hadn't even come down, maybe the pilot didn't see me? I began thinking about how to get the pilot to see me, and I wondered how the pilot knew I was here, then I smelled smoke, shoot! My fish is burned, somehow I forgot about the helicopter and ran to my teepee fire lay, then I peeked through, yep, my fish is as black as a night sky without twinkling stars, then I remembered about the helicopter, so I looked around my surroundings trying to get an idea to get the pilot to see me, then spot my bow and arrows, should I shoot an arrow in front of the helicopter? I always remember the time when I tried to shoot my arrow very high but when the arrow went down, it almost hit my arm, but maybe this time would end up better, hopefully, I need to think about it over and over and over until I felt ready, then I took my bow and arrow, aimed to where I want my arrow to go, bend my elbow and shot the arrow, as soon as I shot the arrow, I ran away from where the arrow would end up falling. Suddenly, the door on the helicopter opened and a ladder fell off, I'm finally rescued!

A few weeks later...

"Why are you bringing your arrows? We're going fishing, not shooting arrows on trees" said my little sister.

"I know" I answered

"What do you mean?" she asked

"You'll see."