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**Courage Scenarios: Defining Courage and Determining Criteria**

**What does it mean to demonstrate courage? Is this act courageous?**

**Guided Practice: “I do / We do”:** One day while Superman is flying around the skies of Chicago, he lands atop the Sears Tower. Using his super-telescopic vision, he sees a woman tied to a railroad track in the distant South. Squinting, he sees that it is Lois Lane. Beyond her, perhaps only fifty yards away, is a rushing freight train, which, in seconds, will cut her fragile body to pieces. Superman leaps from the Sears Tower and flies toward the freight train with the speed of light. He screeches to a halt on the tracks facing the train. The train smashes into his outstretched arms, and Superman smashes it dead. He turns to Lois and asks, “Gee, are you all right?”

Was Superman’s effort to save Lois Lane courageous? **Yes**\_\_\_\_ **No**\_\_\_\_ Explain.

What criteria are you using to make your decision?

* *For an act to be courageous, it must…*

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**Scenario #1:** On the oceanfront, Mr. Jones heard a swimmer shouting for help. He saw signs indicating that this part of the beach was extremely dangerous because of undertows. A lifeguard asked Jones to help him move a boat into the water to be used to help rescue the drowning man. Instead, Jones said, “Don’t be silly!” He ran into the water to swim out the drowning person.

Was Jones’ effort to save the swimmer courageous? **Yes**\_\_\_\_ **No**\_\_\_\_ Explain.

What criteria are you using to make your decision?

* *For an act to be courageous, it must…*

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**Scenario #2:** Near the end of his officer training, Roger volunteered to go on a mission that the captain said involved “real danger.” The captain used this phrase to describe all missions, so Roger assumed that the mission was just another part of his training. When the plane carrying the men left the ground, Roger was surprised to hear the pilot say the men were part of an invasion of a small Caribbean island.

Was Roger’s willingness to volunteer for the mission courageous? **Yes**\_\_\_\_ **No**\_\_\_\_ Explain.

What criteria are you using to make your decision?

* *For an act to be courageous, it must…*

**Scenario #3:** On Monday, a fire started on an oil derrick far out at sea. By Wednesday, the men working on the derrick had been rescued, but the fire was out of control. Red Granger and his men were called in to fight the dangerous fire. Red and his men had fought many oil fires. They had the training, equipment, and experience to put out the fire.

Were Red and his men courageous when they fought the fire? **Yes \_\_ No \_\_ Why?** Explain.

What criteria are you using to make your decision?

* *For an act to be courageous, it must…*

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**Scenario #4:** In the small town of Clinton, teenage boys liked to play “chicken” with their cars. Two boys raced their cars directly at each other. The first boy to swerve to avoid the crash lost. Were the boys courageous when they played “chicken”?

Were the boys courageous when they played “chicken”? **Yes \_\_ No \_\_ Why?** Explain.

What criteria are you using to make your decision?

* *For an act to be courageous, it must…*

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**Scenario #5:** Thirteen-year-old James had been beaten many times by a group of boys in his neighborhood. He generally tried to avoid them. One day, they surrounded him on the street. He was so frightened he could not think clearly. In a panic, hardly knowing what he was doing, he ran as hard as he could at the boy nearest him, knocking him to the ground.

Was James’ attack courageous? **Yes \_\_ No \_\_ Why?** Explain.

What criteria are you using to make your decision?

* *For an act to be courageous, it must…*

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**Scenario #6:**

Joseph Wadsworth came from a family of military men. Both his father and grandfather had been soldiers. Joseph had no interest in being in the military, but he was afraid that his family would reject him if he did not join the military. He joined the service and volunteered to fight in Afghanistan.

Was Joseph courageous when he joined the service and volunteered to fight? **Yes \_\_ No \_\_ Why?** Explain.

What criteria are you using to make your decision?

* *For an act to be courageous, it must…*

Now: Write an essay that judges whether or not someone has committed a courageous act. Your essay should do the following:

1. Define what it means for an act to be courageous
2. Offer at least 4 criteria for courageous acts
3. Find an article in the newspaper about someone doing something that might be considered courageous
4. Explain how what the person fits, or does not fit, the 4 criteria you selected. (You’ll need a paragraph for each of the criteria you present)