THE JUNGLE AIR CRASH

Juliane Koepcke

Learning outcomes: The learner will be able to,

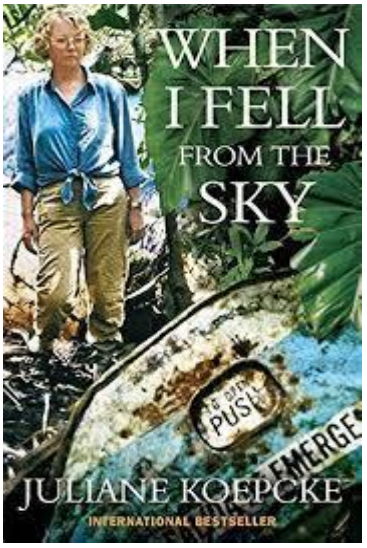
- Read and analyze the prose passage.
- Evolve strategies to come out of difficult situations.
- Face challenges in life with confidence.
- Manage disasters effectively.

About the text

The jungle air crash is a survival story written by Juliane Koepcke. It's an extract from her memoir "when I fell from the sky", which is an international best seller which describes in detail the horrifying experience she had in the jungle, and her life before and after. Her story is a source of hope and inspiration for many.



Juliane Koepcke



Her autobiography

Summary of the text

Juliane and her mother were flying from Lima to Pucallpa. Thirty minutes after take-off, rain and lightning grew turbulent. The plane crashed. Juliane was thrown out of the plane. When she woke up she saw herself lying under a section of three seats turned upside down with no sign of her mother, other passengers, or of the plane. She spent the whole night lying under the seat half-asleep, in shock. She fell in the amazon jungle.



Amazon jungle



juliane koepcke as a child

There were many wounds on her body. She knew that snakes and insects were more dangerous than wild animals. Maggots were hatching in her wounds. With luck, she survived all dangers., She followed the course of a brook. Lack of food and '45' degrees of heat made her very weak. On the tenth day, she saw on the floor a small outboard motor carefully wrapped in plastic, and a can of petrol indicating to her of someone returning. Three American Indian hunters found the helpless girl. They took out the worms from her wounds., She looked like a living nightmare. Eleven days after the crash, Juliane boarded a plane and reached the U. S Mission Base near Pucallpa. Her father joined her. Thus, the terrible ordeal was over.

Wandered In Jungle

Survivor Of Crash Found After 12 Days

By WILLIAM HEATH

LIMA, Peru (AP) — A 17-year-old girl survived an airliner crash in the Peruvian jungle on Christmas Eve, wandered for days in the tropical rain forest, swam across flooded areas and waded through swamps, then built a raft that carried her to a woodcutters' camp.

Juliane Koepcke, the daughter of two noted German-born ornithologists, was brought to the jungle colony of Tournavista Tuesday by two woodcutters who found her semiconscious, floating down the Pachitea River aboard the log and vine raft. From there she was flown to a U.S. missionary center at Pucallpa, 500 miles northeast of Lima, and reunited with her father.

Her mother is missing in the crash.

Juliane's father, Dr. Hans Koepcke, and her mother had lived in Peru for more than 20 years and were the leading authorities on Peruvian birds.

The girl was reported suffering from hunger, exhaustion, cuts and bruises, but she seemed to be in fair shape. She had made many trips in the jungle with her parents, and the couple she lived with while attending high school in Lima.

So far she is the only survivor of 92 persons who were aboard an Electra turboprop that crashed 12 days ago on a flight from Lima to Pucallpa and Iquitos. Aerial and ground searchers redoubled their efforts today, seeking the wreckage, but officials said there was no indication the girl saw any other survivors.

The plane was operated by a Peruvian airline, Lineas Aereas Nacionales, and five U.S. citizens from the missionary center at Pucallpa were among the passengers.

Amanda de Pina, a nurse at a medical post in Tournavista, said Juliane had only a partial memory of the crash and her harrowing 10-day trek through

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[Interview of Juliane Koepcke]

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