

The Raining Rocks Story

Based on a story from the School of Unity & Liberation (Soul)



Once upon a time there was a little town in the mountains called Swisstown. One winter, a villager taking a walk in the hills finds a man lying in the snow. He has been hit by a falling rock. The villager, being a very caring person, uses her jacket to bandage the injured man and carries him back down to the village.

The next day, two more people are hit by falling rocks and they are rescued by other villagers. The following day, four people are hurt, then eight, then twenty. Life becomes dangerous for all the villagers, because the rocks keep falling down. A couple of the more wealthy villagers who live on the mountain hear of the people being injured by the falling rocks and decide to find out why the rocks are falling. After doing some research, they discover that the rocks are being thrown by a billionaire, Filthy Richbanks, and his friends, who hope to build a luxurious hotel and golf course in Swisstown. They are throwing rocks hoping to get rid of the villagers so they can take over the land.

A group of villagers form an organization called The Rock-Bottom Rehabilitation Effort. They set up a huge rescue operation. They set up a clinic to heal the injured, they send dogs to find injured people who are lost outside, set up a shelter for those whose homes are destroyed, and get social workers to help people deal with the traumatic effects of the falling rocks. Finally, Rock-Bottom Rehabilitation Effort makes a giant net to place over Swisstown to catch the rocks as they fall and protect the villagers from being hit.

One day, the net breaks and rocks fall on the village, injuring hundreds and destroying homes, schools, and stores. The Rock-Bottom Rehabilitation Effort is working furiously to heal people and provide shelter. From then on, rescue work becomes an important part of the villagers lives. Everyone becomes involved in helping those hurt by the falling rocks.

The wealthier villagers who live on the mountain watch the people's effort, and feel sorry for them. They decide to form the Swisstown Civil Liberties Union and ask the Swisstown City Council to do something to help the people being hit by the rocks. They gather information on how many townspeople have been injured by the rocks and get the City Council to pass a bill called the Rock-Related Injury Aftercare bill, which would give the Rock-Bottom Rehabilitation Effort more money and resources to treat the injured people. The City Council passes the bill but the Mayor vetoes it.

Meanwhile, Filthy Richbanks and his friends continue throwing the rocks and injuring hundreds of villagers each day. Many buildings have been ruined. The community is turning into a disaster area. The people of Swisstown grow tired of waiting for the mayor to pass new laws to help them. At a town meeting, the villagers voice how sick and tired they are of the falling rocks, of their people being hurt, and they want to change the situation. So at the meeting they form the No More Rocks! Campaign. The people share the resources they have, and come up with ways that they can confront both the mayor, and Filthy Richbanks, to make him stop throwing the rocks. They decide to unite the villagers and go up to the mountain to demand that Filthy Richbanks stop dropping the rocks.

The mayor and other politicians disagree, saying Swisstown needs everyone to stay and keep the rescue effort going. If anyone leaves, they might not be able to continue tending to those injured by rocks.

The town is now split into different groups — those who want to stay and keep the rescue effort going, the wealthy people who support the mayor and Filthy Richbanks, and those who want to march up to the mountain and confront Filthy Richbanks.

Raining Rocks Discussion Questions

Group 1: The Rock-Bottom Rehabilitation Effort

1. Discuss the questions and pick one spokesperson who can explain your answers at the TOWN HALL meeting.
2. Choose one media spokesperson to speak at the press conference prior to town hall meeting.
3. What are some of your group's strategies in dealing with the falling rocks problem?
4. Do you think your strategies will be successful? Why or why not?
5. How would the scenario end if your strategy is used?

Group 2: No More Rocks! Campaign

1. Discuss the questions and pick one spokesperson who can explain your answers at the TOWN HALL meeting.
2. Choose one media spokesperson to speak at the press conference prior to town hall meeting.
3. What are some of your group's strategies in dealing with the falling rocks problem?
4. Do you think your strategies will be successful? Why or why not?
5. How would the scenario end if your strategy is used?

Group 3: The Swisstown Civil Liberties Union

1. Discuss the questions and pick one spokesperson who can explain your answers at the TOWN HALL meeting.
2. Choose one media spokesperson to speak at the press conference prior to town hall meeting.

3. What are some of your group's strategies in dealing with the falling rocks problem?
4. Do you think your strategies will be successful? Why or why not?
5. How would the scenario end if your strategy is used?

Group 4: Filthy Richbanks, the Mayor, and His friends

1. Discuss the questions and pick one spokesperson who can explain your answers at the TOWN HALL meeting.
2. Which of the three groups do you think you could work with more closely to achieve your goals?
3. Which of the three groups is more threatening to you and your goal to build a luxurious hotel and golf course?
4. What is your strategy in dealing with the three other groups in order to achieve your goal of building the luxurious hotel and golf course?

Discussion questions

1. What are the rocks being thrown at our communities?
2. Who are throwing the rocks?
3. Who are the organizations using these different strategies (social service, advocacy and research, organizing) to make change in our communities?
4. What are some ways to build coalitions among groups using different strategies?
5. If you were to start or join a campaign to change youth justice, would be some of the targets, influencers, opposition, allies and constituencies you would engage in your campaign?
6. What are strategies to change the narrative around the issues affecting our communities?
7. What are some things to keep in mind when talking to the media?

