



## *Pushing the Limits of Survival*

### Suggested Reading and Discussion Questions

This theme explores the fundamental urge to survive and how it has manifested in society in the past and today. Issues to consider in group discussions include the ways in which we strive for the survival of the planet, of our families, and as individuals.

#### *I Am Legend*

**Richard Matheson, Fiction.** Winner of the Bram Stoker Lifetime Achievement Award for best vampire novel of the century: the genre-defining classic of horror sci-fi that inspired three films... The population of the entire world has been obliterated by a pandemic of vampire bacteria. Yet somehow, Robert Neville survived. He must now struggle to make sense of what happened and learn to protect himself against the vampires who hunt him nightly.

As months of scavenging and hiding turn to years marked by depression and alcoholism, Robert spends his days hunting his tormentors and researching the cause of their affliction. But the more he discovers about the vampires around him, the more he sees the unsettling truth of who is - and who is not - a monster. *Amazon.com*

- Is it realistic to think that one person can survive against so many vampires for so long?
- Some people would say that vampires are “creatures” but Neville was human. How would you draw that line if we essentially have the same DNA? What is the difference between those two concepts? What makes us human?
- Is researching the cause of the vampirism something you would want to do in this situation? Why or why not? Does scientific knowledge solve all problems, or does it create others?

