## AWESOME stories

## 0. King Kong - Story Preface

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The Empire State Building was an important element in the King Kong movie. This image depicts the Empire State Building as seen from Brooklyn, New York. Photograph by Smithfl. License: CC BY-SA 3.0

The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt <u>First Inaugural Address</u> March 4, 1933

When the new President said <u>those words</u>, he didn't have in mind a movie - called *King Kong* - which had been released just two days before. He was addressing the desperate economic situation gripping the United States.

The free-wheeling, money-earning, flagrant-spending decade known as "<u>The Roaring Twenties</u>" had <u>ended</u> with a stock market <u>crash</u>. (The picture, from the U.S. National Archives, depicts the floor of the stock exchange just after <u>the crash</u>.) People who had plenty suddenly had little, or nothing. <u>Out of work</u>, out of food, out of their <u>homes</u>, Americans were scared of the future.

Herbert Hoover, while <u>wrapping up</u> his presidency and searching for ways to <u>explain</u> the country's continuing economic <u>woes</u>, had a point when <u>he wrote</u>:

The courage and enterprise of the people still exist and only await release from fears and apprehension.

"Release from fears and apprehension," however, did not happen for many years.

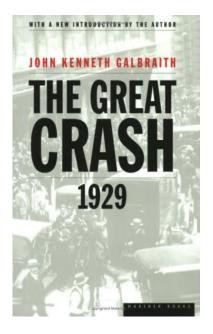
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: <a href="http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/King-Kong">http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/King-Kong</a>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/King-Kong

Media Stream



King Kong





<u>Great Depression - Out of Work</u> Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Great-Depression-Out-of-Work</u>



<u>Great Depression - Life in a Conestoga Wagon</u> Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Great-Depression-Life-in-a-Conestoga-Wagon</u>

## John Kenneth Galbraith - The Great Crash

Wall Street Market Crash - 27 October 1929 Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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<u>King Kong</u>

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<u>FDR - First Inaugural Address</u> FDR's inaugural address, delivered March 4, 1933. Online, courtesy C-SPAN. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/FDR-First-Inaugural-Address</u>