

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
First Inaugural Address
March 4, 1933

When the new President said those words, 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 "The Roaring Twenties" had ended with a stock market crash. (The picture, from the U.S. National Archives, depicts the floor of the stock exchange just after the crash.) People who had plenty suddenly had little, or nothing. Out of work, out of food, out of their homes, Americans were scared of the future.

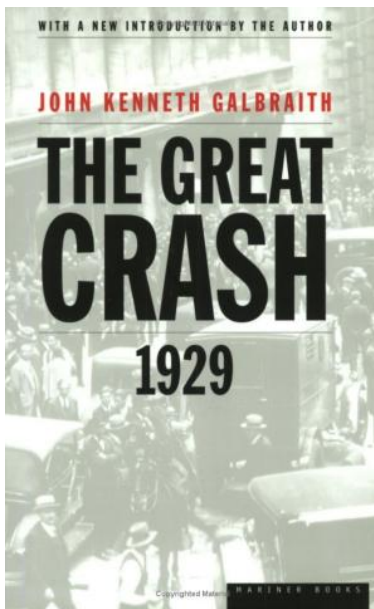
Herbert Hoover, while wrapping up his presidency and searching for ways to explain the country's continuing economic woes, had a point when he wrote:

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:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/King-Kong)
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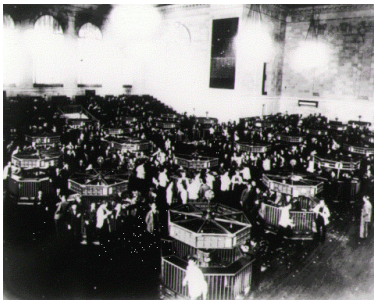


John Kenneth Galbraith - The Great Crash

Image online, courtesy amazon.com website.

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Wall Street Market Crash - 27 October 1929

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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Great Depression - Out of Work

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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Great Depression - Life in a Conestoga Wagon

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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King Kong

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FDR - First Inaugural Address

FDR's inaugural address, delivered March 4, 1933. Online, courtesy C-SPAN.

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