

Economics of *Squid Game*

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URL: <https://www.economicsofsquidgame.com/>

Squid Game debuted on Netflix in the Fall of 2021 and broke records for the streaming platform. The Korean-language survival drama features 456 debt-ridden people playing a series of life-and-death children's games in the hopes of winning a life-changing jackpot. The first season includes only 9 episodes, and Netflix estimated that 142 million households watched the series in the first four weeks of its release. The series includes multiple scenes that can be used to demonstrate important game theory topics but also features multiple teaching opportunities for other relevant concepts covered in other economics courses.

Online resources have been developed in the past that allow educators to infuse popular culture more easily into their curriculum (Ghent, Grant, Lesica 2011; Kuester, Mateer, and Youderian 2014; Tierney et al. 2016; Wooten and Staub 2019; Wooten, Staub, and Reilly 2020; Wooten and Lynch 2022). There has also been a recent growing emphasis on identifying international popular culture that can be used in the classroom (Ben Abdesslem and Picault 2021; Geerling et al. 2021) and Korean pop culture has been especially popular (Geerling et al. 2022; Wooten 2021). The Economics of *Squid Game* Website includes 32 scenes from 9 different episodes that can be used to teach principles-level concepts.

Every scene on the Website is hosted on Critical Commons so that educators can download the original file and embed the scene into their slide deck or learning management system. A second season has been announced and is in development, which will expand this resource over the coming years. Each posted scene contains a summary of the scene we have identified with teachable content and summarizes how particular economic concepts can be seen in the scene. Each scene also includes reference tags that allow educators to search for other scenes with similar concepts. There are several detailed teaching guides that demonstrate how the clips can be paired with different assessments.

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