Extra Training

Reading Task 449

1. Read the text again and choose which of the statements (1-7) are
True (1), False (2), Not Stated (3).

The Tunguska Event



"Suddenly ... the sky was split in two and high above the forest the whole northern part of the sky appeared covered in fire. At that moment, there was a bang in the sky and a **mighty** crash ... followed by a noise like stones falling from the sky, or of guns firing. The earth **trembled.**" This is how a witness described one of the most mysterious and frightening events to **occur** on the planet in history. It was around 7 am on 30th June 1908 near Vanavara in Siberia and people were just waking up when suddenly there was huge explosion in the skies above the Podkamennaya Tugunska River. The shock of the blast was so strong that it was recorded by instruments as far away as England. Millions of trees were flattened and thousands of reindeer and other wildlife were killed. Surprisingly, and fortunately, there were no human victims though. After the blast, thick clouds gathered in the skies over the region reflecting the sunlight away. At the time no one understood what had happened and local people thought that the god Ogdy had punished them.

The Tunguska region is so **remote** that it took over a decade for scientists to organise an expedition to investigate the event. Most experts now believe that a comet or asteroid was to **blame** for the destruction. They say that as it **ripped** through the sky and it heated the air around it to 24,700 degrees Celsius and eventually exploded into a fireball at 8,500 meters above the ground, releasing energy equal to about 1000 times the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Recent studies of the area have revealed a pleasantly surprising fact though. The soil in the Tunguska area is richer than volcanic ash and the plant life is growing four times faster than it normally should. In fact, it seems the comet, meteor, or asteroid, may have been a gift from the heavens as the area is becoming like a Garden of Eden.

1. Millions of people saw the explosion in the sky.

2. People felt the blast as far away as in England.

3. The explosion killed many animals.

4. At first, the locals thought the blast was caused by a god.

5. The explosion was almost as powerful as the Hiroshima bomb.

6. A lot of people were killed or injured in the explosion.

7. There were many scientific expeditions to the place of the event.

2. Match the words in the list to the words in bold in the text.

blame *tremble* *rip through* *occur* *remote* *mighty*

1. distant _____

2. be the cause of _____

3. shake violently _____

4. move rapidly _____

5. very powerful _____

6. happen _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS