Reading: a story



1 Read the story. Answer the questions.

The day the MOUNTAIN EXPLODED

It began as a beautiful day. The sun was shining, the sky was blue. Everything was quiet and peaceful in the old town where Katerina lived with her family. Their town was popular with visitors, who came to see its temples and theatres, its columns and fountains, all of which were almost 2,000 years old. Tourists also enjoyed the sight of the horses and carts, which were still used in the centre of the town.

Katerina came from a family of merchants who sold fruit and vegetables in the market in the main square. The house the family lived in was small for eight people, but it was clean and its windows, which faced the street, were always filled with vases of beautiful flowers. It was a simple life, but a good one.

The people of the town couldn't remember the last eruption. The volcano, which rose above the town to the east, was not something that most people thought about. However, in the days before the disaster, one old man was thinking about it. 'It's going to explode,' said Constantine, who spent his days sitting on the steps of the theatre in the main square. While the people of the town were buying food, he was pointing to the top of the volcano, from which smoke was rising. 'Look,' he said. 'It's going to explode.' The people were too busy with their lives to pay attention to what Constantine was saying. When the volcano erupted two days later, ash and lava covered everything and everyone in the town – everyone, that is, apart from Katerina and her family, the only people who listened to Constantine's warning. While the ash was falling upon the town, they were watching from a town in the mountains many, many miles away, sad to see what was happening, but glad to be safe.

1 How old were the temples and theatres in the town? almost 2,000 years old

2 What did Katerina's family sell? _____

3 Where did Katerina's family sell their produce? _____

4 How many people were there in Katerina's family? _____

5 Who warned the people about the volcano? _____

6 Who listened to the warning about the volcano? _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Writing 1

1 **Order the words to make expressions used to describe shock and surprise.**

1 it / can't / believe / I / . I can't believe it.

2 is / unbelievable / this / .

3 really / is / happening / this / ?

4 so / it's / awful / .

5 a / it's / tragedy / .

6 for / words / I'm / lost / .

Help with Writing

When you write a story, think about how you order the information. For example, at the beginning of paragraph 3 we read, 'The people of the town couldn't remember the last eruption.' It is only in the next sentence that we read the word 'volcano'. Organising sentences in this way makes the information more surprising for the reader.

2 **Imagine you are Katerina. Write about leaving the town and watching the volcano erupt. Include expressions of surprise and the following information:**

- what you took with you (e.g. food, clothes, books)
- what you thought when you were watching the volcano erupt
- what Constantine and people in your family said.

LIVEWORKSHEETS