Chapter 3: The Hero

Fill in the Blanks

1. Robert Bailey lived in the city of _____ with his Japanese wife Mai.
2. Ofunato is located on the shifting tectonic plates of the Pacific _____.
3. The port of Ofunato is framed by soaring, pine-clad _____.
4. The river estuary broadens out into the glistening _____.
5. Ofunato sits almost on top of a seabed _____.
6. Bailey taught _____ to a class of teenagers at the local high school.
7. The loudspeakers in Ofunato played songs like _____ and Yesterday.
8. On 11 March 2011, Bailey was supposed to be on his _____.
9. Bailey went to school that day to teach his students a bit of _____.
10. The earthquake struck at _____ local time.
11. The town hall official warned residents about a huge _____.
12. People had precisely _____ minutes to evacuate before the tsunami hit.
13. The tsunami wave arrived at _____ p.m.
14. Bailey and his students took shelter on a _____.
15. The tsunami spray looked like a wall of _____.
16. Among the debris, Bailey saw a house flipped onto its _____.
17. A truck was parked on its _____ halfway up a wall.
18. Ofunato had experienced a smaller tsunami of about _____ cm just 48 hours earlier.
19. Bailey's parents waited anxiously for news in _____, England.
20. Robert Bailey was hailed as a _____ for saving his students.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Why had Robert Bailey initially come to Ofunato, Japan?

a) To study volcanic activity in the Pacific Ring of Fire

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b) To teach English at a local high school

c) To research earthquake preparedness methods

d) To work at a Japanese fishing company

2. What natural feature made Ofunato particularly vulnerable to disasters?

a) Its location on shifting tectonic plates in the Pacific Ring of Fire

b) Being surrounded by active volcanoes on all sides

c) Frequent typhoons from the Philippine Sea

d) Its position below sea level in a natural basin

3. What was Robert doing when the earthquake struck on March 11, 2011?

a) Teaching cricket to students on his day off

b) Preparing earthquake drills at the school

c) Walking home from school with his wife

d) Monitoring seismic activity at the town hall

4. How did Robert first protect his students when the earthquake hit?

a) He locked them in earthquake-proof classrooms

b) He led them to the baseball field on higher ground

c) He organized them into emergency rescue teams

d) He sent them running home to their families

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5. What warning did town officials give residents after the earthquake?

a) "Volcanic eruption imminent - seek underground shelter"

b) "Aftershocks continuing - stay away from buildings"

c) "Nuclear plant meltdown expected - evacuate the region"

d) "A huge tsunami is upon us! Evacuate immediately"

6. How much time did residents have between the warning and the tsunami's arrival?

a) About 30 minutes

b) Less than two minutes

c) Precisely eight minutes

d) Nearly an hour

7. What surreal sight did Robert see as the tsunami approached?

a) A wall of mist so high it hid the mountains

b) Flames rising from the ocean surface

c) All the trees bending simultaneously

d) The sky turning dark green

8. What evidence of hastily abandoned lives did Robert observe after the tsunami?

a) A bowl with soy sauce-stained chopsticks

b) Half-eaten meals still on kitchen tables

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c) Cars with engines still running

d) School bags lined up neatly

9. Why were Robert and his students relatively prepared for the disaster?

a) They had experienced a 50cm tsunami two days earlier

b) The school had just conducted earthquake drills

c) Robert had studied disaster management in college

d) Japan's warning systems gave detailed instructions

10. How did Robert's students react while waiting for the tsunami to pass?

a) They sang songs to stay calm

b) They formed huddles and cried

c) They prayed loudly together

d) They discussed escape plans

11. What happened to the other 137 students from the high school?

a) They were safely evacuated to another town

b) They were nowhere to be seen after the tsunami

c) They took shelter in the school basement

d) They were rescued by helicopter

12. How did Robert's parents in England first learn about the disaster?

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a) From a breaking news alert on television

b) From Robert's last phone call before the wave hit

c) From a delivery driver who mentioned it

d) From the British embassy in Tokyo

13. How long did Robert's parents wait without news of their son?

a) About 24 hours

b) Nearly a week

c) Four days and nights

d) Two full weeks

14. What did Robert do after surviving the tsunami?

a) He immediately returned to England

b) He helped search for missing friends and colleagues

c) He gave interviews to international media

d) He wrote a book about his experience

15. How did Robert view his own actions during the disaster?

a) As heroic deeds that deserved recognition

b) As proof that foreigners shouldn't live in Japan

c) As failures since many students were lost

d) As just doing his job as a teacher

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