

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

- 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

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

- 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?

- 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