

Class 2: Comprehension Answering Techniques Workshop

Read the passage below and answer questions 1 to 10.

All the answers must be in complete sentences. (20 marks)

<p>Good – this would be a fitting end, thought Jii. When the roof fell on them or when the mud burst in and smothered them, all would be over swiftly. Hands on his lap, Jii breathed deeply. Mud was engulfing the house on both sides, rubbing against the walls which started to give way under pressure. Dishes clinked in the cupboard. There was a cracking sound overhead as beams split and dust showered down.</p>	1 5
<p>Something heavy struck a corner and Jii felt the house slide off its foundation. A cabinet in the kitchen crashed to the floor. Jii watched the crumbling wall. Outside, something pounded against it- boulders. The house slipped another few paces downhill but still it did not collapse A branch from a tree shot through the cracked wall. Despite his readiness to leave the world, Jii's heart beat quickly and he soon passed out in fright.</p>	10
<p>Light flooded the room when Jii woke, chilled by the early air and his slick heavy clothes. A layer of mud covered the floor. Shimo walked out from the kitchen, setting bowls on a low table. Realizing his host was laying out breakfast, Jii had to laugh; they were going to crouch in the muck and eat, as if it was another ordinary day! Hot rice, miso soup, fried eggs.... Jii had to admit he was hungry, and it all smelled good. He tried to wipe mud from his face on a sleeve which was even muddier. His whole body ached. The house looked ready to topple and a low, cloudy sky was visible through cracks in the walls. Wincing at the pain in his feet, Jii hobbled to a window which Shimo had flung wide.</p>	15 20
<p>Jii had wondered how much of the village he would be able to glimpse through the trees, but the mud slide had mostly cleared the slope, leaving only a few lonely giants. Jii saw at once that his own house and garden were gone. But, half-standing walls, mounds of foliage, and an intact handful of well-built homes or barns had ridden far down the slope like sleds. His breath rushed out of him and he had to clutch the windowsill. There was nothing much left of the village! In a single night, it had vanished. How many of Jii's friends and neighbours had gone with it?</p>	25
<p>People were moving among the wreckage – dishevelled villagers searching for loved ones, searching for any remains of their prized possessions. Other people were there too; police, perhaps and emergency workers in bright uniforms and hard hats.</p>	30
<p>It was only after he had sat with Shimo and eaten breakfast in the growing light and only after he had eased outside through the ruined doorway, that he saw what had saved Shimo's house. By a miracle, the jumble of century-old fallen tree trunks,</p>	35

stood as pillars against the house, gently enough to leave it standing, but heavily enough to sink into the mud in the garden. The mud slide had been forced to slow down, leaving only trickles into the house.

Adapted from 'A Tale of Silence' by Durbin

Q1. What did Jii mean when he thought 'all would be over swiftly' in line 2? (2m)

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Q2. How has dust showered down into Shimo's house? (2m)

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Q3. Which object caused Shimo's house to move downhill? (1m)

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Q4. Explain why Jii laughed when he saw Shimo laying out breakfast? (2m)

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Q5. Write 1, 2 and 3 in the blanks below to indicate the order in which the events occurred in the passage. (1m)

..... Jii realized that his own house and garden had been destroyed in the mud slide.

..... The villages were looking for their relatives and belongings in the wreckage.

..... Jii fainted as he thought he was going to die in the mud slide.

Q6. Which sentence in paragraph 4 shows that Jii was shocked to witness the destruction of the mudslide? (2m)

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Q7. Explain what 'it' in line 26 refers to and what happened to it. (2m)

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Q8. Look at the table below. State the cause or effect of the given phrase or sentence. (3m)

Cause	Effect
	Jii's heart beat quickly.
	His slick heavy clothes.
He was injured in his feet during the mudslide.	

Q9. Based on the story, state whether each statement in the table below is true or false, then give on reason why you think so. (3m)

Statement	True/False	Reason
The mudslide had spared all the trees on the slope.		
Besides Shimo's house, all other houses in the village were destroyed in the mud slide.		
There was external help during the aftermath of the mudslide.		

Q10. Explain clearly the reason why Shimo's house had not collapsed. Support your answer from the evidence in the passage. (2m)

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