
SUMMARY OF THE LESSON

I

'Tsunami' refers to a very large and powerful wave in the sea. It is caused by some earthquake under the sea. One such calamity hit several countries on December 26, 2004. The worst affected parts were coastal parts of India, the Andaman and Nicobar islands and Thailand. Some 1,50,000 people lost their lives. But animals suffered very few casualties. Perhaps they had sensed the coming earthquake and they ran to safer high places.

This lesson recounts a few stories of bravery and intelligence when the Tsunami hit the Andamans. The first story is about Ignesium, the manager of a cooperative society in Katchall. He was woken up by his wife at 6 am. The family rushed out of the house. When the earth stopped shaking, the sea started rising. The waves washed away his two children and in-laws. But his three other children were saved because they were with him.

Sanjeev was a policeman. He managed to save himself, his wife and daughter from the waves. But soon he heard cries for help from the wife of John, the guesthouse cook. He jumped into the water to rescue her. But both were washed away.

13 year old Meghna was carried away along with her parents and 77 other people. She held on to a wooden door for two days. Eleven times the relief helicopters flew overhead, but they couldn't spot her. However, she was brought to the shore at last by a wave.

Almas Javed was a ten-year-old student of a convent school in Port Blair. Her family had gone to another island to celebrate Christmas. Almas's father saw the sea waves receding in the

morning. They understood that the waves would come back with force. He tried to take his family to a safer place. But her father and grandfather were swept away by a giant wave. Her mother and aunts were washed away. Almas climbed on to a log of wood. She later found herself in a hospital.

II

There is a story from Thailand. The Smith family was celebrating Christmas at a beach resort. The parents had two daughters. The water kept coming in on 26 December, 2004. But little Tilly Smith sensed the danger ahead. She recalled the geography lesson that Tsunami could be caused by quakes, volcanoes and landslides. She called her family to get out of the beach. Her parents went up to the third floor of the hotel and survived. Thus her geography lesson saved their lives.

While humans lost their lives, wild and domestic animals sensed the danger in time. Elephants ran for higher ground and the dogs, birds and zoo animals looked for safer places. Perhaps animals possess a sixth sense. They feel the tremor long before humans realise. So not many animals were reported dead. At Yala National Park in Sri Lanka, no dead bodies of animals were found while sixty visitors were washed away.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

COMPREHENSION CHECK (Page 27)

Say whether the following are true or false:

1. Ignacious lost his wife, two children, his father-in-law, and his brother-in-law in the tsunami.
2. Sanjeev made it to safety after the tsunami.
3. Meghna was saved by a relief helicopter.
4. Almas's father realised that a tsunami was going to hit the island.
5. Her mother and aunts were washed away with the tree that they were holding on to.

Ans. 1. True 2. False 3. False 4. True 5. True

COMPREHENSION CHECK (Page 28)

Answer the following in a phrase or sentence:

1. Why did Tilly's family come to Thailand?

Ans. Tilly's family had come to Thailand to celebrate Christmas.

2. What were the warning signs that both Tilly and her mother saw?

Ans. Both saw the sea rise and it started to foam and form whirlpools.

3. Do you think Tilly's mother was alarmed by them?

Ans. No, Tilly's mother was not alarmed by them.

4. Where had Tilly seen the sea behaving in the same strange fashion?

Ans. Tilly had seen the strange sea behaviour in a video.

5. Where did the Smith family and the others on the beach go to escape from the tsunami?

Ans. They went to the third floor of the hotel and were saved.

6. How do you think her geography teacher felt when he heard about what Tilly had done in Phuket?

Ans. She felt very pleased and satisfied.

COMPREHENSION CHECK (Page 30)

Answer using a phrase or a sentence:

1. In the Tsunami 150,000 people died. How many animals died?

Ans. Very few animals died.

2. How many people and animals died in Yala National Park?

Ans. Sixty visitors and two animals.

3. What do people say about the elephants of Yala National Park?

Ans. People say that the elephants ran from the beach an hour before the Tsunami hit the coast.

4. What did the dogs in Galle do?

Ans. The dogs in Galle refused to go to the beach for their daily exercise.

WORKING WITH THE TEXT (Page 30)

Discuss the following questions in class. Then write your own answers:

1. When he felt the earthquake, do you think Ignésious immediately worried about a Tsunami? Give reasons for your answer. Which sentence in the text tells you that the Ignésious family did not have any time to discuss and plan their course of action after the tsunami struck?

Ans. No, Ignésious did not think about the tsunami. He thought that it was just an earthquake. So he took the television off the table and put it on the ground. His family did not have time to discuss and plan their course of action. The following sentence tells about the chaos and confusion.

“...two of his children caught hold of the hands of their mother's father and mother's brother, and rushed in the opposite direction.”

2. Which words in the list below describe Sanjeev, in your opinion?

cheerful ambitious brash brave careless
heroic selfless heartless humorous

Ans. brave, heroic, selfless

Use words from the list to complete the three sentences below.

- (i) I don't know if Sanjeev was cheerful, _____ or _____.
- (ii) I think that he was very brave, _____ and _____.
- (iii) Sanjeev was not heartless, _____ or _____.

Ans. (i) ambitious or brash.
(ii) heroic and selfless.
(iii) careless or humorous.

3. How are Meghna and Almas's stories similar?

Ans. Meghna and Almas—both were lucky. Meghna was carried away with her parents and other people. But she alone survived. She was washed ashore by a wave.

Almas climbed on to a log of wood. When she opened her eyes, she found herself in a hospital in Kamorta.

4. What are the different ways in which Tilly's parents could have reacted to her behaviour? What would you have done if you were in their place?

Ans. Tilly foresaw the danger of tsunami at once. She became hysterical. Her parents didn't ignore her. They were sure that something wrong must be going to happen. So they all left the beach and were saved. If I were in place of Tilly's parents, I might not have believed her. I might have scolded her for making a nonsense situation.

5. If Tilly's award was to be shared, who do you think she should share it with—her parents or her geography teacher?

Ans. It is very obvious. Tilly's award should be shared with her geography teacher. Her parents could not guess the tsunami was coming.

6. What are the two different ideas about why so few animals were killed in the tsunami? Which idea do you find more believable?

Ans. Very few animals were killed in the tsunami. Perhaps they feel the tremor much before humans do. Secondly, the animals have sixth sense. They can guess the coming disaster and so run away to safer places/higher ground.

The idea that the animals are gifted with the sixth sense is more believable. They move fast to get over the crisis.

WORKING WITH LANGUAGE

(Page 31)

1. Go through Part-I carefully, and make a list of as many words as you can find that indicate movement of different kinds. (There is one word that occurs repeatedly—count how many times!). Put them into three categories.

fast movement slow movement neither slow nor fast

Can you explain why there are many words in one column and not in the others?

Ans.	fast movement	slow movement	neither slow nor fast
	fall (once)	rising	floating
	rushed (3 times)	recede	
	swept away (3 times)		
	washed away (once)		

There are more words in column A. These are related to fast movements of escape from the tsunami. It was natural for men and animals to make fast movements in such situation. The waves also overtook some people very fast and washed them away.

2. Fill in the blanks in the sentences below (the verbs given in brackets will give you a clue).

- (i) The earth trembled, but not many people felt the _____. (tremble)
- (ii) When the zoo was flooded, there was a lot of _____ and many animals escaped into the countryside. (confuse)
- (iii) We heard with _____ that the lion had been recaptured. (relieve)
- (iv) The zookeeper was stuck in a tree and his _____ was filmed by the TV crew. (rescue)
- (v) There was much _____ in the village when the snake charmer came visiting. (excite)

Ans. (i) trembling/tremors (ii) confusion (iii) relief (iv) rescue (v) excitement

3. Study the sentences in the columns A and B.

A	B
Meghna was swept away.	The waves swept Meghna away.
Almas's grandfather was hit on the head.	Something hit Almas's grandfather on the head.
Sixty visitors were washed away.	The waves washed away sixty visitors.
No animal carcasses were found.	People did not find any animal carcasses.

Compare the sentences in A to the ones in B. Who is the 'doer' of the action in every case? Is the 'doer' mentioned in A, or in B?

Notice the verbs in A: 'was swept away', 'was hit', 'were washed away', 'were found'. They are in the passive form. The sentences are in the *Passive Voice*. In these sentences, the focus is not on the person who does the action.

In B, the 'doer' of the action is named. The verbs are in the active form. The sentences are in the *Active Voice*.

Say whether the following sentences are in the Active or the Passive voice. Write A or P after each sentence as shown in the first sentence.

- (i) Someone stole my bicycle. A
- (ii) The tyres were deflated by the traffic police. _____
- (iii) I found it last night in a ditch near my house. _____
- (iv) It had been thrown there. _____
- (v) My father gave it to the mechanic. _____
- (vi) The mechanic repaired it for me. _____

Ans. (ii) P (iii) A (iv) P (v) A (vi) A

SPEAKING AND WRITING

(Page 32)

1. Suppose you are one of the volunteers who went to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for relief work after the tsunami. You work in the relief camps, distributing food, water and medicine among the victims. You listen to the various stories of bravery of ordinary people even as they fight against odds to bring about some semblance of normalcy in their lives. You admire their grit and determination. Write a diary entry.

You may start in this way.

31 December, 2004

The killer tsunami struck these islands five days ago. But the victims are being brought in even now. Each one has a story to tell....

Ans. The killer tsunami struck these islands five days ago. But the victims are being brought in even now. Each one has a story to tell. Their stories are hair raising as well as heartening or inspiring. Many were determined to start a new life. They don't want to stay in the camp for long. They feel small because living on charity was disgraceful. Most of them want to return to their cottages which are no more there, and to get a fishing boat to earn their livelihood. One woman, though old, recalled how she had saved a child from drowning.

2. The story shows how a little girl saved the lives of many tourists when a tsunami struck the beach, thanks to the geography lesson that she had learnt at school. She remembered the visuals of a tsunami and warned her parents.

Do you remember any incident when something that you learnt in the classroom helped you in some way outside the classroom?

Write your experiences in a paragraph of about 90-100 words or narrate it to the whole class like an anecdote.

Ans. Do yourself.

□□□

★ Geography Lesson

Zulfikar Ghose

SUMMARY OF THE POEM

In this poem the poet describes the scene of the city, and the country from an aeroplane flying high. When the jet plane took off, the sky was clear. The poet looked out from the window. The city looked neatly planned. But on ground it looked without plan or order. It had numerous lanes and houses without style or symmetry.

When the aeroplane flew at a height of 10,000 feet above sea-level, he looked below and realised the logic of geography. It became clear to him why the cities in every country are situated on the river banks. Secondly, the people lived chiefly in the valleys. This is the level land between the hills. Land and water are primary needs of life. They attract people.

When the plane rose as high above the ground as six miles the earth looked round. It had more water than land. The poet understood the reasons why it was so. But he could not see any logic behind the division of land by raising walls of bricks and hatred, and why people went madly after one another's throat.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

WORKING WITH THE POEM

(Page 35)

1. Find three or four phrases in stanzas one and two which are likely to occur in a geography lesson.

- Ans.** (i) scaled six inches to the mile
 (ii) valleys were populated
 (iii) land and water attracted man.

2. Seen from the window of an aeroplane, the city appears

- (i) as haphazard as on ground.
- (ii) as neat as a map.
- (iii) as developed as necessary.

Mark the right answer.

Ans. (iii) as developed as necessary

3. Which of the following statements are examples of "the logic of geography"?

- (i) There are cities where there are rivers.
- (ii) Cities appear as they are not from six miles above the ground.
- (iii) It is easy to understand why valleys are populated.
- (iv) It is difficult to understand why humans hate and kill one another.
- (v) The earth is round, and it has more sea than land.

Ans. (i); (iii) ; (v) – these are correct statements.

4. Mention two things that are

- (i) *clear* from the height.
- (ii) *not clear* from the height.

Ans. (i) The earth is round and it has more sea than land.

- (ii) Why men hate each other and build walls across the cities.

□□□