



# Natural hazards



## Let's Think

1. Can you name three natural hazards?
2. Have you ever encountered any natural hazards?

You are Fei. You are reading a story excerpt about an earthquake.

Raphael did not always have a smile on his face, but he did today. He finally managed to buy a bunch of rarely-seen blue roses, which were his wife's favourite, from the nearby florist's. It was the second anniversary of her death, and Raphael knew he had bought the right thing for her. As soon as he got back in his house, he found his kitten Pumpkin already standing by his feet. 'You know it is an important day as well, don't you?' he knelt down and said to Pumpkin.

With Pumpkin following closely, he walked straight to the living room, wanting to fill the vase with the pretty roses. Raphael lowered himself to look at a photo of his wife's, which was placed near the vase. 'Can you see them? Are they too far from you? Let me pull them closer.' he murmured gently. He took hold of the vase and felt like his hand was trembling. He then looked at his hand and realised one thing—it was the vase that was shaking, rather than his hand. At this very moment, Pumpkin started meowing and Raphael sensed that everything was shaking: the lamp, the framed paintings on the wall, the bookshelf, the curtains, the chairs, the vase and even the photo frame which held his wife's photo. 'Where's the safest spot?' Raphael thought to himself as he scanned around. The shaking grew even more violent that the books on the bookshelf fell off like an avalanche and the chairs were toppled. He held Pumpkin in his left arm and crawled into the space under a table. 'No worries, Pumpkin. It'll be fine.' Raphael said to the trembling cat as unknown objects fell hard on the table surface. A cracking sound followed and then pieces of the ceiling rained down on the floor. For a few minutes, Raphael and Pumpkin stayed beneath the table until everything was back to normal. As he came up from under the table with Pumpkin, his house was unrecognisable to him. 'Lisa!' he said to himself and looked in the direction of the photo frame...

(343 words)

## Part A

Answer the following questions using the information from the story excerpt. Choose the **BEST** answer and blacken **ONE** circle only.

- Which of the following is **NOT TRUE**?
  - A. Raphael was not a friendly man.
  - B. Raphael was content with what he had chosen for his wife.
  - C. Raphael's wife liked blue roses.
  - D. Raphael had a small cat.
- Raphael bought the flowers very probably to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. express empathy to those who have been hurt in earthquakes
  - B. prove that he was rich
  - C. show respect for his wife, who was no longer alive
  - D. display his love for Pumpkin
- Which of the following is the appropriate definition for the word 'straight' used in line 7?
  - A. (*adj.*) positioned in the correct way
  - B. (*adj.*) continuing in one direction
  - C. (*adv.*) into a vertical position
  - D. (*adv.*) immediately
- The words 'the trembling cat' imply that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Pumpkin was in Raphael's shaky hands
  - B. Pumpkin was frightened
  - C. Pumpkin was not used to staying under a table
  - D. Pumpkin was unusually excited
- Which of the following may be the best title for the story?
  - A. Earthquake during an Anniversary
  - B. The Rare Flowers
  - C. The Last Words of a Dying Wife
  - D. The Deadliest Earthquakes in History

## Grammar Corner

A **question tag** is a short phrase that is placed at the end of a statement. It is used to ask for confirmation or for agreement.

**e.g.** 'You know it is an important day as well, don't you?'  
(Lines 5-6)

## Part B

Answer the following questions using the information from the story excerpt. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1. Look for the following pronouns and answer who/what they refer to in the story excerpt.

Pronoun	Line	Reference
her	3	(a)
they	9	(b)
his	24	(c)

2. Find words and phrases in the story excerpt that are closest in meaning to the following. Fill in each blank with no more than two words.

succeeded in	(a)	(v.)
said very quietly	(b)	(v.)
fell over	(c)	(v.)
fell in large amounts	(d)	( <i>phr. v.</i> )

3. Find a sentence in which a simile is used in the story excerpt.

---

---

4. What was the name of Raphael's wife?

---

5. Why was the house unrecognisable to Raphael? Explain your answer.

---

---

# Vocabulary Bank

The following are some essential items for a basic emergency survival kit. Match them with the correct pictures. One of the words is not used.

canned food   medication   dust mask   first aid kit  
self-powered torch   antibacterial wet wipe   space blanket  
Swiss Army knife   lighter



1.



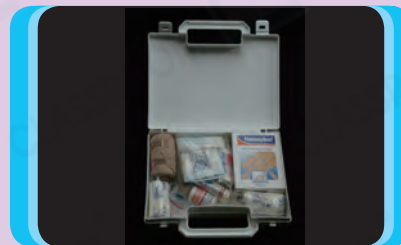
2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



## Let's Discuss

1. Have you ever experienced any natural disasters?
2. What else would you add to a basic emergency survival kit?