Dad! Mum! I Felt the House Shake

By Jordan Dean
Art by Anton Syadrov
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Dad! Mum! I Felt the House Shake
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BOKO WOKE UP WITH A JUMP!
HE HAD FELT THE HOUSE SHAKE!

DAD! WAKE UP!

HE WAS SURE OF IT. HE WENT OVER TO HIS FATHER AND WOKE HIM UP.

WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHAT IS IT BOKO?

I FELT THE HOUSE SHAKING, DAD. I AM SURE OF IT.

TAMINU WOKE UP AND CHECKED AROUND THE HOUSE BUT EVERYTHING SEEMED NORMAL.

YOU SHOULD GET SOME SLEEP SOIL. YOU HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL TOMORROW.
YOUR MOTHER AND BROTHER ARE ASLEEP.

STILL STIRRED BY THE SHAKING THE NIGHT BEFORE.

BOKO WOKE UP EARLY THE NEXT DRY...
He related his story to his mother, Shawni, over breakfast. She didn’t look concerned.

It’s nothing, Bono. Now have your breakfast and go to school.

Okay mum.

Bono’s school was in the nearby village, close to his house. As he walked, he met his classmate, Clance.

Did you feel anything strange last night?

We should ask our teacher about it.

Yes, I felt the house shake. I was sure of it.

At school, Mr. Tomara, their science teacher, began the day with a lesson about earthquakes.

Earthquakes are caused by tectonic plate movements.

Tectonic plates in the Earth’s crust are always moving. Usually they move so slowly we don’t even know it is happening. But when they move quickly and rub against each other, or pull apart from each other, an earthquake can happen.

Earthquakes begin under the Earth’s surface and can make the ground shake. Sometimes we only feel a small shake, but if the ground shakes a lot, it can destroy buildings and cause landslides or tsunamis.
I felt my house shake last night. But nothing was damaged, was it an earthquake?

Yes, Boko.

What happened last night is called a foreshock. Similar earthquakes can happen before and after the main one. Earthquakes before the main one are called foreshocks and aftershocks are called aftershocks.

It may not be the cause for alarm, but this is a good time to warn your family that an earthquake may be coming. It is good to be prepared.

Next, Mr. Tomirra took out some posters and placed them on the blackboard. The posters had photographs of damaged villages and buildings.

The advice comes from the government. It can show you how to stay safe when the ground shakes.

I am glad you are learning new things at school. Son, where do we go when an earthquake occurs?

There is a clearing high up on a nearby mountain. That is a safe place. We should prepare a bag containing food and water to carry with us.
THAT'S RIGHT, DAD. WE ALSO USED A BUSH KNIFE, A TORCH AND A MOBILE PHONE.

MY BUSH KNIFE IS IN THE KITCHEN. PUT SOME FOOD, WATER CONTAINERS AND BUSH KNIFE NEAR THE DOOR SO WE CAN GRAB THEM ON OUR WAY OUT.

HE ALSO FILLED TWO CONTAINERS WITH WATER.

BOKO LOADED A BAG WITH ENOUGH FOOD TO LAST THEM A WEEK.

HE FOUND TAMARA'S BUSH KNIFE AND PLACED IT WITH THE FOOD AND WATER BESIDE THE DOOR.


BOKO WAS TIRED AND DIPPED OFF TO SLEEP EARLY.

IT WAS AROUND MIDNIGHT WHEN BOKO WOKE UP CONFUSED. WAS SOMEONE CRYING OR WAS THAT JUST A DREAM?
KEEP CALM! DO NOT PANIC!

BOOOOOOMMMMMHHHNNBBBBBOOOOMMMMM!!!

BOOOOOOMMMHHHNNBBBBBOOOOOO!!!

RATTLE BOOM SHAKE!!!

RATTLE BOOM SHAKE!!!
“BOOMMMMMHHMMM!!!”

Mrs. You Chuk! Bonky?

Yes, but we must walk up the mountain quietly.

Tambu helped the family gather the bags they had prepared.

They walked up a nearby mountain, which was an open area away from trees and bushes. They met many other people from the village there, looking for a safe space to wait.

Wait! Everything has gone quiet.

Let’s go!
Boko knew his family had made a good decision, but before he could breathe a sigh of relief, another tremor followed.

The villagers stayed low to the ground. Parents held their children's hands.

Elders shared stories of the many other times they had felt the Earth shake. Boko did not sleep at all that night.

By the time the sun rose, the tremors had ceased. The villagers helped each other to their feet and began making plans to assess the damage around the village. Some people from the government came to help too.
Tim and a group of willing helpers to search for plastic sheets and bedding so they could create some temporary shelters for those whose homes were damaged.

Thank you. Everything will be fine. We will help you!

The recovery from an earthquake can take weeks, or even months, for the community. But Bongo was pleased that no one in his family had been hurt.
It’s time to prepare for an emergency!

Use your finger to trace the lines. Which items should go into the emergency kit? Which ones should stay at home?
Emergency decision-making tree

Prior to the event of a tsunami, tropical cyclone, flooding, landslide or earthquake, speak with your family and teacher about your community’s evacuation building or safe place. Discuss how to respond to possible scenarios, and use the decision tree to help you decide the best course of action.

**Standard operating procedure**

- **Is the building safe?**
  - Yes: Remain indoors in a safe and strong building.
  - No: Evacuate building

- **Are the grounds safe?**
  - Yes: Assemble on safe grounds.
  - No: Evacuate to higher grounds.

- **Is it safe outside?**
  - Yes: Go outside to check for damages.
  - No: Do not go outside until safety advice officially issued.

- **Is it safe in the community?**
  - Yes: Return to your community.
  - No: Remain on safe ground until safety advice officially issued.

- **Is it safe outside?**
  - Yes: Go outside to check for damages.
  - No: Do not go outside until safety advice officially issued.

- **Is it safe in the community?**
  - Yes: Return to your community.
  - No: Remain on higher grounds until safety advice officially issued.

**Supporting information**

**Emergency kit**
Keep an emergency kit at home for your family.

**The kit must contain:**
- Drinking water
- First Aid Kit
- Preserved food
- Radio
- Torch lamp
- Matches
- Batteries

Use the kit only in case of emergency and replace anything that has been used.

**Shelter-in-place**

**Earthquake:**
- Identify safe places where you can protect your head and avoid heavy falling objects.
- Don’t forget an earthquake can cause a tsunami.
- If you feel a strong earthquake, go quickly to higher ground, and listen to the radio for warnings.

**Tropical cyclone:**
- Open louvers on the side of the building, away from wind to reduce the pull force of the wind on the roof.
- Remain calm, stay indoors but clear of doors and windows.
- Remain in the strongest part of the building.
- Do not go outside until safety advice is officially issued.

**Evacuate building**

Assist people with disability and visitors.
Take your emergency kit.
Evacuate to higher ground and move to a safe location.

**Tsunami:**
- Run to a safe place in high ground or at least 2 km inside the island.
- Wait for at least 2–3 hours after the first wave to return to the village.
- Listen to the radio for further information or reach out to the emergency contacts.
You can use these questions to talk about this book with your family, friends and teachers.

What did you learn from this book?

Describe this book in one word. Funny? Scary? Colourful? Interesting?

How did this book make you feel when you finished reading it?

What was your favourite part of this book?

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