A Flood in the Village

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Adrian's father sat at the table repairing fishing nets. He hadn't been out on his boat since the stormy weather started. The rough seas were too dangerous.

His mother listened to the radio, waiting for news of an evacuation.

Still nothing. We might be alright. We'll start packing to go, just in case though. You can never be too careful.

His little sister looked nervous, but Adrian wasn't worried. He'd been through it all before.

Don't worry Mayal. It's just a bit of wind and rain. No big deal.

Stop already! I want to play with my friends!
One of Adrian’s favourite books was about weather. He knew all about tropical storms, floods and droughts.

We have always had the occasional flood in our village, even before I was born. My teacher says that some of the floods are getting worse because climate change is affecting how much rain we get. When we have a big storm which brings too much rain all at once, the earth can’t soak up the water quickly enough and the excess water can flood our houses, villages and farms.

Adrian’s mother was packing medicine, the radio and torches with extra batteries, food that would keep for a few days, and some bottles of water into a bag.

We’ll be safe up there, Amaya, and it’s always good to visit grandmother. We can play with her dog Chi Chi and help her feed the chickens.

Attention! This is a warning from the provincial disaster management office. We are expecting heavy rain which may cause widespread flooding to low lying areas. Heavy rains are expected to continue. We recommend evacuation to higher ground within the next twenty-four hours. If you are unable to evacuate, then move to the highest part of your building, or the highest part of the closest building.
YOU SEE, I TOLD YOU YOUR CLEVER MOTHER IS ALWAYS RIGHT.

IF WE'RE LUCKY THE BUZZS MIGHT STILL BE RUNNING, BUT IF THE ROADS HAVE STARTED FLOODING, THEY'LL BE CUT OFF AND WE'LL HAVE TO WALK.

AMAYA I’LL CARRY YOU ON MY SHOULDERS, WE’LL HAVE A GREAT ADVENTURE.

SON, HELP ME LIFT THINGS OFF THE FLOOR.

YES, DAD!

ADRIAN AND HIS DAD PICKED UP AS MANY MATS, TOOLS AND TOYS AS THEY COULD AND PLACED THEM ON THE TABLES AND BENCHES, SO THEY WOULDN'T GET WET IF THE FLOOR FLOODED.

OUTSIDE, THEY TIED DOWN THEIR FISHING BOAT AS BEST THEY COULD AND HELPED THEIR NEIGHBOURS TO SECURE THEIR HOMES. THE WIND WAS GETTING STRONGER AND THE RAIN WAS GETTING HEAVIER. THEY RAN BACK INTO THE HOUSE.
Adrian and his family stuck close together and headed to higher ground as a siren sounded from far away.

Adrian’s dad tried to find them a car or a bus to get up the mountain, but it was chaos in their village.

Looks like we’re walking family, stay close and follow me.

Many of their neighbours from the village were walking with them. Everyone was in good spirits despite the wild weather.

Adrian helped to carry the family’s emergency kit. The backpack included a torch, batteries, first aid kit, candles, matches, bottled water, canned food and a can opener.

Amaa, they’re telling everyone to go where it’s safe. It’s a loud noise, but it’s nothing to be scared of.
They stopped for a rest and Adrian looked back to where they’d come from.

We’ll have a little break and then go on.

Those people shouldn’t be driving over the bridge. It’s not safe anymore. A car can easily be swept away in rushing water!

They walked for hours, higher into the mountains. Amaya fell asleep on her father’s shoulders.

Let’s keep moving. We want to get to the farm before nightfall.

Look at the river! It’s already so high. I wouldn’t want to be a fish in there getting spun around and dizzy.

The farm... we’re here!
GRANDMOTHER! WE'VE COME TO STAY WITH YOU.

I THOUGHT I MIGHT SEE YOU! IT HASN'T STOPPED RAINING FOR DAYS!
I'M SO HAPPY YOU'RE ALL HERE.

WOOF!

CHI CHI!

HI CHI CHI,
GOOD DOG.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU TOO.

GRANDMOTHER PUT THE KETTLE ON THE STOVE AND PREPARED FOOD FOR EVERYONE.

LET'S ALL GET INSIDE.

MUM, I NOTCED A HOLE IN YOUR ROOF, I'LL TRY TO FIX IT.

I'LL MAKE YOUR FAVOURITE DISHES, YOU'VE HAD SUCH A LONG WALK, YOU'LL BE STARVING.

HOLD THE LADDER TIGHTLY WHILE I COVER THE ROOF WITH A TARPUL. 

12

13
They ate Grandmother’s delicious food and then settled down to get some sleep. Adrian, his family, Grandmother, Chi Chi, and the chickens, all snuggled up together.

Boom! Crack!

After a week at Grandmother’s farm, Adrian’s father said it was time to head home and see what had become of their village.

Grandmother hugged everyone tightly and told them to stay safe.

I’ll miss you little ones. Look after your parents.

Bye Grandmother. Bye Chi Chi.

They set off down the mountain towards home, not knowing what they would find when they got there. The first thing they saw was the swollen river.
Oh no! The bridge has collapsed.

I hope everyone got out of the village safely like we did.

I hope someone will fix the bridge dad.

As they got closer to their house, Adrian went to cut across a flooded road when his father pulled him back quickly.

We mustn’t walk through the flood waters, Adrian. We don’t know what’s underneath the muddy water that could be dangerous.

There could also be lots of germs in the water which could make you sick. Make sure you don’t swim - and don’t drink from it either. Promise me.

I promise.
When they finally reached home they were relieved to see their house still standing.

Some of their neighbours were fixing their roofs or making repairs to their boats and fishing nets.

Adrian's mum pulled out some food, blankets and pillows that had been damaged by the flood waters. They would have to be thrown away because there was no way to clean the germs off them. When the sun came out they might become mouldy, too.

It's so good to be home.

There's a lot of damage but we'll be alright.

I'll help you dad. What should we do first?

That's my brave boy. Let's start with the roof.

Adrian knew that if the whole community worked together things would soon be back to normal.

The end.
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

Is it safe outside?

Yes

Go outside to check for damages.

No

Do not go outside until safety advice officially issued.

Are the grounds safe?

Yes

Evacuate to higher grounds.

No

Is it safe in the community?

Yes

Assemble on safe grounds.

No

Is it safe in the community?

Yes

Return to your community.

No

Remain on safe ground until safety advice officially issued.

Evacuate building

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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