

Comprehension Workbook 5

# Flood

(Weather disaster)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles



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Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

# Weather around the world

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with your normal subject studies. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our textbook.)

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### Unit 5: Flood

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# Flood

When I look outside the window of my flat in Bangkok, Thailand, all I can see is water. This is the rainy season and this year we had even more rain than usual. About 7 days ago, floods came to my part of the city.

I am one of the lucky ones, I live high up on the seventh floor of an apartment building, so flood water will never reach my belongings. I also have enough food to last me three weeks.



Hundreds of thousands of other people in Bangkok aren't as lucky. On the first day of the flood, the house of my friend, Vitaya, was filled with water. He had to use a boat to get out of his house. He can't go home until the waters go down. Everything in his house is soaked with water.



On the morning of the second day of floods my friend Kanda was 45 kilometres away from Bangkok. He drove home right away to try to save his belongings. The normally 30-minute drive took him five hours. Everyone else who lives in Kanda's neighbourhood was also trying to get in to save their property, or out to escape. When Kanda arrived at his home in the afternoon, it was already filled with water. He had to swim through his kitchen to try and save his belongings.

Rajini, a maid in my apartment building, normally sleeps in a room on the first floor. On the third day of the floods her tiny room was flooded with water higher than her bed. She's 55 years old, and everything she owns is in that room.



On the fourth day of the floods, people were using boats to get around the city. By the fifth day, many people began leaving the city to go and live with friends or family in the countryside, where the floods are not as bad.

After six days, the shelters filled up and the police rode around in boats delivering food and helping those who were still stranded. Everyone is hoping the water will go down soon.



# Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

**a** Write a sentence in which you found the word '**belongings**'.

**b** From that sentence, write what you think '**belongings**' means.

**c** Write a new sentence using the word '**belongings**'.

**d** Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to '**belongings**'.

**e** Make a list of your '**belongings**'.



# Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

| Key word         | Synonym (similar word) |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Example: leaving | departing              |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |



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# Summarising

## (the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

**1** Write a heading for your summary.

**2** Now write the main idea in one sentence.  
e.g. "This story tells us..."

**3** Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.



**Finally,  
can you rewrite your  
summary to make it better?**

- 1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.**
- 2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.**
- 3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.**
- 4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?**

**There is  
nothing wrong  
with rewriting; even  
the best authors  
rewrite their  
work.**



123  
4

# Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.



Some houses were affected very quickly, even on the first day of the flood.

As the floods rose higher, you could not walk about, and by the fourth day people had to use boats.

But the river level kept rising, so by the second day a large area was flooded and people who were on business elsewhere raced home to save as much as they could. That included my friend Kanda.

The houses that were affected first were on the lowest-lying ground near the river.



# Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



1 When did the floods start?

2 Where was Kanda when the floods started?

3 When was Rajini's room flooded?

4 How did people get around the city during the floods?

5 What did Vataya use to get out of his house?





# Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.



1 Why did Kanda have to swim through his kitchen?

2 How long did it take Kanda to drive home?

3 What happened to the things in Vataya's

4 Why are people hoping the water will go down soon?



# Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.



1 Why is the writer lucky?

2 Why did people start leaving the city?

3 Should more people have prepared for the floods?

4 What happened to all of Rajini's belongings?

5 Why did it take Kanda so long to drive home?





# Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.



## Discussion topic: Preparing for floods

What can people do in order to help them prepare for floods?  
You may also want to think about ways the police can also help.





# Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



## A flood

It is a very rainy season. Suddenly, the radio announces that the waters are rising and there will be a flood...

(Now write a story describing what you do to protect yourself from the flood. Do you try to run to a safer place, or do you stay where you are? What happens to the shops, cars and people in the flood ...)



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