

Death and survival at school swimming club



Standing outside Rikuzentakata's community hall, Yukiko Horie clasps her hands together and then touches them to her forehead. She bows and says a quiet prayer.

1-The three-storey building is still standing, but it has been completely wrecked by the tsunami that swept through.

When Yukiko looks up she sighs with grief. She tells me that in her prayer she was talking to her students. Six of them died here. One is still missing. They were all aged between 16 and 17, and were members of Takata High School's swimming club. Yukiko, an English teacher, was also one of the two coaches in charge of the club. She was not with the team when the earthquake struck on 11 March but at school.

2- Of the 11 members of the club, nine had gone to practise at Rikuzentakata's B&G swimming centre down by the seafront. They had just got changed into their swimming costumes when the magnitude 9 quake hit. Fearing a tsunami, the staff at B&G followed their established evacuation drill and took the nine children a mile or so to the town's community centre, right opposite Rikuzentakata's town hall. It was a fateful decision.

Yukiko Horie and the children in school all reached the top of the hill before the tsunami struck. They all survived. The second swimming teacher, 29-year-old Motoko Mori, hurried off towards the seaside to try to find the club members and bring them to safety. Ms Mori has not been seen since.

Everything has been smashed to pieces.

Incredibly two girls from the swimming team managed, somehow, to survive. Honoka and the second girl, 16-year-old Chihiro Kanno, told Yukiko how they ran upstairs to escape the rising water. But it caught up with them. The water forced the door of the store open, and swept them inside. It stopped rising about six inches below the ceiling. In **that space** they had air. They were swimming, just to keep breathing.

3- After the earthquake, 16-year-old Chihiro had been crying and panicking. As the tsunami swept into the hall, Chihiro held the hand of a third girl while they fled upstairs. But when the water forced Chihiro into the storeroom she could not keep hold of her friend. They were pulled apart. Chihiro and Honoka watched as their teammate was swept across the hall, pressed against an elevator by the wave, then carried away. The two surviving girls were trapped in the storeroom in the freezing cold until they were found by a rescue team the next day.

Honoka Sasaki is still in hospital. She cut her leg on a ventilation fan that was floating in the water and had to have an operation last week. "Honoka remembers the terrible things and cannot sleep," says Yukiko. Chihiro now has frequent nightmares. She tries to keep busy, to ward off the memories.

Yukiko Horie, the swimming teacher, cannot escape her feelings of guilt that she could not save her students.

"I should step forward, so I try not to be thinking of the sad stories. I have a responsibility to step forward."

By Damian GrammaticasBBC News,
Rikuzentakata, Japan

Zahrouni secondary

Full term test

Level: 4th year students

Name:

Class:

Date: 19- May – 2011

Total mark: _____
20

Reading comprehension. (12 marks)

1) Complete the table with information from the text. (3marks)

Disaster	Time	Place
.....

2) Correct these statements with details from the text. (3marks)

a) Yukiko survived the disaster because she was absent from school that day. (§1)

.....

b) Ms Mori was proved to have died while trying to save the club members. (§2).

.....

c) Honoka Sasarki hasn't left the hospital because she has some injuries. (§3)

.....

3) Complete the statement with the appropriate information from the text.(2marks)

- No sooner had the members of the club changed into their swimming suits than

..... (§2)

- Despite her attempt to save her teammate, Chihiro couldn't resist the tidal wave.

Eventually, the two girls (§3)

4) Find in the text words having nearly the same meaning as: (2marks)

- Going on the surface (§2) =

- Frightening dreams (§3) =

5) What does the underlined expression in §2 refer to? (1mark)

In that space refers to

6) Yukiko adds: 'I should step forward, so I try not to be thinking of the sad stories. I have a responsibility to step forward'

In your opinion, how can Yukiko step forward? Give one suggestion. (1mark)

.....

.....

Language :(6 marks)

1) Put the words in the correct tense or form. (3marks)

Today it is quite often common to read in the media are references to quality of life or list3n to politicians talk about it. What exactly do they mean?

It is understandable that a good healthy environment gives people the possibility of **(breathe)** in pure air, drinking pure water or eating biologically healthy food. All this **(contribute)** to a sense of well-being and a **(long)**, more satisfying life.

Unfortunately, a large part of the world **(populate)**, especially in the so-called Third World, has not got the opportunity **(enjoy)** these simple things. Millions of people, including **(child)**, have to starve because they do not get enough to eat and do not have adequate medical care.

2) Fill in the blanks with 6 words from the list.(3 marks)

to – never – experimented – smoking – need – ever – addicted – on

According to the latest government figures,23 % of all 15 -year-olds are regular smokers. Many of these teenage smokers are already to nicotine. They to smoke their first cigarette as soon as they get up. It's like they are physically and mentally dependent it. Some of them spend all their pocket money to buy cigarettes. It's a very expensive addiction. Eight out of ten smokers begin under the age of 12 and the majority wish they had started.

By the age of 16, two- thirds of young adults have with cigarettes. in Great Britain about 450 teenagers start everyday.

Writing (12marks)

1) Use the following notes to write a biography of Alfred Nobel. (4marks)

Born: 21 October 1833

Died 10 December 1896

Occupation: chemist, engineer, inventor.

Known for: -invent dynamite(1886)

-write his will , lead to creation of Nobel Prize.

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2) Essay (8marks)

You have recently noticed that your city is becoming dirtier and dirtier. Thus the environment is threatened.

Write an article for your school magazine in which you suggest ways to save the environment.

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- Frightening dreams (§3) = nightmares

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