



ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and compare your ideas.

- 1 Do you like visiting old buildings like castles or ruins?
- 2 Which do you think is probably more dangerous – an earthquake or an active volcano? Why?
- 3 Would you prefer to learn about an important historical event from a history book or from a story or movie? Explain your reasons.

- 1** Read the text. As you read, think about this question.
Which sounds do you hear as you read the text?

Buried Cities Jennie Hall

For a little time, the house was still. Only the fountain and the shadows and the artist's brush on the **canvas** moved there. Then came a great noise as though the sky had burst open. The house trembled. Ariston's brush was shaken,

- 5 making ugly red marks on the painting. Then there was a **clattering** on the cement floor like a million arrows falling. Ariston ran outside to see what was happening. Soft little stones showered from the skies, like beans. They burned his face and they **stung** his bare arms. He gave a cry and
- 10 ran back inside the house. Then he heard a loud call above all the clattering. It came from the far end of the house. Ariston ran back to the **courtyard** and there lay Caius, his master's young sick son. He was covering his head with his arms and crying. Ariston pulled Caius indoors.
- 15 "Little master!" called Ariston. "What is it? What has happened to us?"
"Oh, take me!" cried the little boy.
"Where are the others?" asked Ariston.
"They ran away," answered Caius. "They were afraid, Look!
- 20 O-o-h!"
He pointed to the sky and screamed with terror. Ariston looked. Behind the city lay a beautiful hill, green with trees. But now it was a huge, **grim** black cloud. It rose straight like a pine tree and then spread its black branches over the sky.

Ariston is a slave in a rich man's house in Pompeii. At that time it was very common for people to have slaves working and living in their homes. Ariston likes his master and his family, especially the youngest son, Caius. Ariston has a lot of responsibilities and is very good at his work. His hobby is painting.



- 25 From that cloud came the shower of these small hot stones.
"It's a volcano," cried Ariston.
"I want my father," wailed the little boy.
Then Ariston remembered that his master was away from home. He had gone on a voyage to Rome to find a doctor
- 30 for his boy. He had left Caius in the charge of his nurse, but now everyone had run away.
"Your father is expected home today, master Caius," said Ariston. "He will come. He always **keeps his word**. We will wait for him here. This strange shower will soon be over."
- 35 Several times the ground moved under him and there was a **rumbling** noise. It felt like being on a ship in a storm. Then there was thunder and the house trembled. Ariston was looking at a small, **bronze** statue in the patio, it **swayed** in the earthquake. Then it fell, crashing to the ground. In a few
- 40 minutes, the falling shower had completely covered it.
"Come, Caius, we must get away," he cried. "Otherwise, we shall be buried here."

GLOSSARY

canvas	a piece of strong cloth used by artists for painting on
clatter	if something clatters, it makes a lot of noise when it hits something hard
stung	past tense of <i>sting</i> . If an insect, plant, etc. stings you, it causes pain by putting poison into your skin
courtyard	an open area by a building with walls or buildings around it
grim	worrying, without hope
keep your word	do what you have told someone that you would do
rumbling	a low, continuous sound
bronze	a brown metal or orange-brown metal
swayed	moved slowly from side to side

2 Read the text again and answer the questions.

1 How would you describe Ariston's reaction to what happens?

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2 Why do you think the writer compares the cloud to a pine tree?

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3 What does Ariston realise when he sees the bronze statue?

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4 Do you think it is a good idea for them to leave the house? Why? / Why not?

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5 Where do you think they are going to?

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VOCABULARY

3 Complete the text with the correct word from the box.

bronze canvas courtyard grim swaying

Information for visitors to the Museum.

To see the Italian paintings, cross the
1 and you will find the gallery
on your right. The 2 statue of a
young soldier is a favourite. The 3
of the Queen, painted at around the same time is in
the next room. You may think she looks a bit
4, but that is probably because
she wanted people to respect, or even fear her. The
painting of pine trees next to her is so realistic they
look like they are 5 in the wind.

4 Choose the word in italics that best completes sentences 1-4.

- 1 When I'm very hungry my stomach makes a *clattering / rumbling* sound.
- 2 When I was in the park, I was *stung / bitten* by a bee.
- 3 A statue made of *gold / bronze* is probably the most valuable.
- 4 It's not unusual to see buildings *sway / rumble* in an earthquake.

WRITING

5 Work with a partner. Research one of the following topics:

- The destruction of Pompeii
- The discovery of Pompeii
- Pompeii today

Prepare a five-minute presentation on your topic, decide who is going to say what and write the presentation on cards. Your presentation should be about 200 words.

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SPEAKING

6 Using the information you wrote in Activity 5, give your presentation about Pompeii to the class.