

The Wave

From: robynjohnson@provider.com

To: danieljohnson@provider.com

Date: 28th December 2004 12:34PM

Subject: I'm alive!

Hi mum and dad!

First, I want you to know that Kelsie and I are safe. I am sure that you must have been going crazy with worry over the last few days. I'm sorry it has taken me this long to get a message to you.

The phone lines are down or being clogged by thousands of people trying to do the same thing: reassure loved ones. I lost my mobile phone when it hit. This is the only way I could think to get in touch for the time being. The Internet is patchy here, so I'm hoping this will send.

It's so horrible here. I wish I could come home. The doctors and nurses are trying their hardest, but there are just too many injuries to deal with. It's only been two days since it happened. Hopefully, it will start to ease off over the next few days.

I'm sure you can imagine just how terrifying the whole thing was. We were on the beach about to have a morning swim when we felt the ground start to shake. The next thing we knew, everybody was screaming and running. We saw people trampling others to get past. We had no idea what was happening, but we knew it was serious. I don't know what would have happened if we'd been asleep or in the sea. Some people weren't so lucky.

I wasn't thinking of anything but saving us both from being crushed at that point. I told Kelsie to head for the field at the back of the hotel where there was more space. We didn't make it. The noise was horrific. I thought it was people screaming at first, but it was the sound of the tsunami crashing into the hotel behind us.

Something hit me on the head when the wave struck. I wasn't knocked out, just dazed. I remember seeing Kelsie holding desperately on to a palm tree as I was swept past. Everything I tried to grab

just slipped through my fingers. At that point, I felt sure I was going to drown.

I got lucky. Something hard hit me on my back and knocked the air from my lungs. I tried to see what it was, but the water was pressing me so hard against it that I couldn't turn. I could see Kelsie still, but she was too far to reach.

By now, the flow of water had started to ease off slightly, and I turned around. I'd been washed into a billboard by the side of the main road. We were nearly half a mile from the hotel.

I swam over to Kelsie as soon as the water was slow enough and we made our way back to where our hotel had been. Everything had been devastated. One of the medical people told us that he thinks there are tens of thousands of people who died. Both of us are just feeling so blessed to have made it.

Anyway, I've got to go. Somebody else needs to use the computer. I'll tell you the rest when I get home.

All my love.

Robyn



INFERENCE FOCUS

1. Why does the author start by saying that they are safe?
2. How does Robyn feel throughout the email? What tells you this?
3. When they ran from the beach, why did Robyn head for the field behind the hotel?
4. Why is Robyn happy to let somebody else use the computer?
5. How do you think Robyn's parents will feel to receive the email? Explain your thoughts.

VIPERS QUESTIONS

V

Which word tells you that there isn't the best Internet service?

R

On what date did the tsunami hit?

S

What did the girls do after they felt the ground shaking?

R

What was Robyn washed up against that saved her life?

V

What does the word devastated tell you about what they found at the hotel?

Answers:

1. They don't want their parents their worry
2. She feels lucky. She talks about other people not being so lucky, and about how she got lucky when she hit the billboard. She also talks about feeling blessed.
3. There was more space so they would be less likely to be crushed by the crowd
4. She knows how hard it is to send messages home so wants the other person to have the chance
5. Accept answers that link to being relieved because they know she is safe or concerned because of what she has been through.

V: Patchy

R: 26th December (don't accept 28th as this is when the email was sent)

S: They noticed everybody start to run and they ran away from the crowds

R: A billboard

V: Everything was broken and ruined