

Name: _____ # _____

I Survived - The Japanese Tsunami, 2011

Comprehension Questions:

Chapter 1 -

Who is the main character? _____ How old is he? _____

Where does the story take place? _____

What month and year does the story take place? _____

What is the problem in chapter 1?

List words or phrases on pages 1-2 that help the reader to visualize what the tsunami wave looks like, or shows how powerful it is:

Chapter 2 -

Ben and his family live in California. Why does his family travel over to Japan?

Who do we learn is very important and special to Ben? _____

In chapter 2, the author flashes back to 7:45 a.m. How much earlier is the story currently happening from the time of the main action in chapter 1 (2:46 p.m.)?

Chapter 3:

What is the Japanese word for Uncle? _____

Why does Harry think his sewn-up cut is the best birthday gift ever?

Ben had loved basketball so why did he give it up?

Chapter 4:

Why does Ben not want to go exploring to see places Dad had been to when he lived in Japan? _____

Why is the cat going totally bonkers? _____

Why do you think the author decided to have Ben's family from California?

Chapter 5:

When Ben and Harry are trapped in the bedroom during the earthquake, he thinks about his dad. Ben says that his dad probably felt scared too when what was happening? _____

What allows Ben to relax a little during the earthquake?

Where do the boys hide during the earthquake?

How do the boys feel about their pet cat? _____

How do you know? _____

Chapter 6:

What is something that Ben does that shows he is a good brother to Harry?

On page 35 the author describes the wave that is coming toward them. List 2 ways the author helps the reader to visualize the strength of the wave.

Chapter 7:

What is something on page 37 or 38 that shows just how quickly they were leaving town?

What noise does the author compare to the sound of the wave?

Chapter 8:

Why does the author tell stories about Dad at the special training center?

How does Ben escape from the water-filled car?

What verb on page 46 shows how fast Ben was escaping from the water-filled car?

The author says, "Each time he (Ben) fought his way to the surface to take a breath, the water grabbed him and pulled him down again." What sport does this scene remind you of? _____

Describe examples the author gives that show how dirty the water has become?

Chapter 9:

Who does Ben see while he is floating in the water? _____

How does Ben know that the cat recognizes him?

What was happening to the wave?

Chapter 10:

What comparison does the author make that helps readers see how the water recedes?

What is left after the water goes back into the ocean?

What does Ben find that gives him a flicker of strength? _____

Chapter 11:

Where does Ben end up? _____

What action shows that Ben is extremely thirsty?

Who does Ben see at the end of the chapter? _____

Chapter 12:

What actions by Harry show that he is very excited to see Ben?

Chapter 13:

Where is the family going at the end of the story?

After the Book Questions:

What was the author's main purpose for including dad in the story?

Which character are you most like? _____

Why? _____