

STARR Reading Practice

Read this selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

from Yuuki and the Tsunami

Based on a story retold by Elaine L. Lindy

Adapted as a play script by P. J. Rittiger

My notes about
what I am reading

CHARACTERS

Yuuki	First Villager
Yuuki's Father	Second Villager
Yuuki's Mother	Other Villagers
Village Boy	

Yuuki: (*sadly*) Father, tell me again about Grandfather.

Yuuki's Father: Everyone in our village remembers your Grandfather. He was the man who taught us how to grow rice so well. Everyone respected him because he was so smart. I know that you miss him.

Yuuki: Yes, I miss seeing him in our fields each day and hearing his stories.

[Yuuki's Mother steps out of the home. She is carrying a basket of fruit as if she has been cooking inside.]

10 *First Villager, Village Boy, and Other Villagers walk back and forth across the stage in little groups. They are decorating the village, so they are carrying baskets, paper lanterns, bowls of food, and flower garlands.]*

15 **Yuuki's Mother:** There you two are! Fooling around again! Snap out of it! We have a lot to do before tonight, you know. If this is going to be a great celebration, then we better get to work! Am I the only one who knows how to work around here?

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My notes about
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20 **Yuuki's Father:** Yuuki and I were just talking about
Grandfather and what a smart man he was, Mother.

Yuuki's Mother: Yes, we all miss Grandfather, Yuuki.
Still, we remember him every day by doing things the
way that he taught us.

(to Yuuki's Father)

25 OK, that's enough memories for today. Let's get
cracking!¹ I need your help inside. Yuuki can work by
himself for a while.

Yuuki's Father: Yes, I will come with you, dear.

30 **Yuuki's Mother:** *(gives basket of fruit to Yuuki)* Yuuki,
I want you to take this fruit to the sea and make sure it is
scrubbed clean and dried by the time I return.

(walks off-stage)

Yuuki's Father: You know how she gets before a
festival. I had better go to help her.

35 *(quickly runs off stage after Yuuki's Mother)*

*[First Villager, Village Boy, and Other Villagers have
been walking back and forth across the stage behind
Yuuki and his family. Now, Yuuki holds the fruit and
walks slowly across the stage. He feels the earth shake
40 under his feet but no one else seems to notice. Yuuki
spins pinwheels with his arms and wobbles his legs so
it looks as if he is trying to stand up on a moving
trampoline.]*

45 **Yuuki:** *(surprised)* WHAT was THAT? The earth
MOVED!

*[The earth moves again. The actors drop what they are
carrying and bend their knees as if trying to keep
balanced. The movement stops and the villagers start to
laugh, relieved.]*

50 **First Villager:** Losing your balance there?

Second Villager: No way! I have the sure-footedness of
a mountain!

First Villager: What are you talking about? A mountain
has no feet!

1. Let's get cracking: let's get busy.

55 **Second Villager:** Haven't you ever heard of the "foot of the mountain"?

My notes about
what I am reading

[First Villager claps Second Villager gently on the shoulder and the two of them exit, laughing.]

60 **Yuuki:** *(seriously)* Wait! The earth MOVED under my feet! I think it WAS an earthquake!

First Villager: Come on, Yuuki! Always thinking the worst.

65 **Second Villager:** We have not had an earthquake in a long time. What makes you think we are going to have one now?

First Villager: You just don't know how to have fun, Yuuki. Always working, just like your grandfather.

70 *[All of the Villagers pick up what they dropped and start to go about their business again as if nothing has happened.]*

Yuuki: *(loudly)* WAIT!

75 *[Yuuki looks at the back wall of the room. Puts up a hand to shade his eyes. With the other hand, he points over the heads of the people in the audience.]* I SEE THE HOUSES BELOW HAVE MOVED! LOOK! THE SEA HAS TURNED BLACK. NOW IT LOOKS LIKE THE SEA IS RUNNING BACKWARD, AWAY FROM OUR VILLAGE!

(to audience)

80 Now I remember what Grandfather said! The sea would turn black and run away from the shore just before . . . just before . . . a TSUNAMI!²

[All Villagers walk to where Yuuki is standing.]

85 **First Villager:** LOOK! I have never seen anything like this before! Look how far the ocean has pulled back! We can see parts of the beach that we never saw before!

Second Villager: Yes! Let's go to the beach right away. Imagine all of the cool shells we will be able to find! We can string them together and hang them in our trees.
90 We will have the best festival ever!

2. **tsunami:** a huge ocean wave caused by an underwater earthquake or a volcanic eruption.

[As the Villagers are leaving the stage to run to the beach, Yuuki waves his arms to try to stop them.]

My notes about
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95 **Yuuki:** WAIT! Wait everyone! Come! Come! There is terrible danger! My grandfather told me that this is just what happens before a TSUNAMI!!

Second Villager: What are you talking about, Yuuki? Wait . . . are you trying to keep us away so you can get all the shells for yourself?

First Villager: Yuuki! YOU of all people!

100 **Second Villager:** *(clicking lips)* Tsk, tsk, tsk.

Yuuki: No! NO! You don't understand! You must run away! Up to the mountain! Everybody!

105 *[All the Villagers except the Village Boy leave the stage laughing to head for the beach. Yuuki yells after them but they do not act like they hear him. Yuuki knows he has to find a way to get the Villagers to move up to the mountain quickly. He takes a long piece of wood from the "fire" in front of his home and runs to the side of the stage, pretending to set the rice stacks on fire. While he is doing this, Village Boy sits down in front of Yuuki's house and watches him. Yuuki touches the wood with the fire on the end to the rice crop in several places. Then he drops the branch and runs to the front of the stage facing the audience.]*

115 **Yuuki:** FIRE! FIRE! EVERYONE RUN TO THE MOUNTAIN! QUICK!
(Throws down the burning branch and runs off stage.)

(End of ACT 1)

ACT 2

120 *[All of the characters are standing together on the top of the mountain, including Yuuki, Yuuki's Mother, and Yuuki's Father, who are standing in front of the other villagers. Everyone is panting as if they have run a long way on a hot afternoon. Everyone looks angry and upset.]*

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Village Boy: *(steps forward and points to Yuuki)*
125 YUUKI IS CRAZY! He set fire to the rice crop!
(to the rest of the Villagers)
He did it on purpose! I SAW him!

[Yuuki's Mother and Yuuki's Father step to Yuuki. They are frowning.]

130 **Yuuki's Mother:** *(crosses arms over her chest)*
I do not believe a word of it. Not my Yuuki. Son, tell them that this is not true!

Yuuki's Father: Tell them, Yuuki!

[Yuuki looks away.]

135 **Village Boy:** LOOK! LOOK!
(points over the heads of the people in the audience again)
A TSUNAMI!

[All characters on stage gasp, hug each other and hide their faces in their hands in fear, except Yuuki, who stares outward over the heads of the people in the audience as if he is looking at something very far away.]

Yuuki: It was just how Grandfather described a tsunami. Everything he said would happen came true.

145 First comes the earthquake.
(makes a sweeping motion with the hands away from the body)

Then, the sea turns black and pulls away from the land. Then, the tsunami comes and everything is swept away.

150 **Village Boy:** *(sadly)* Our village is gone. The tsunami took it away like it was never there.

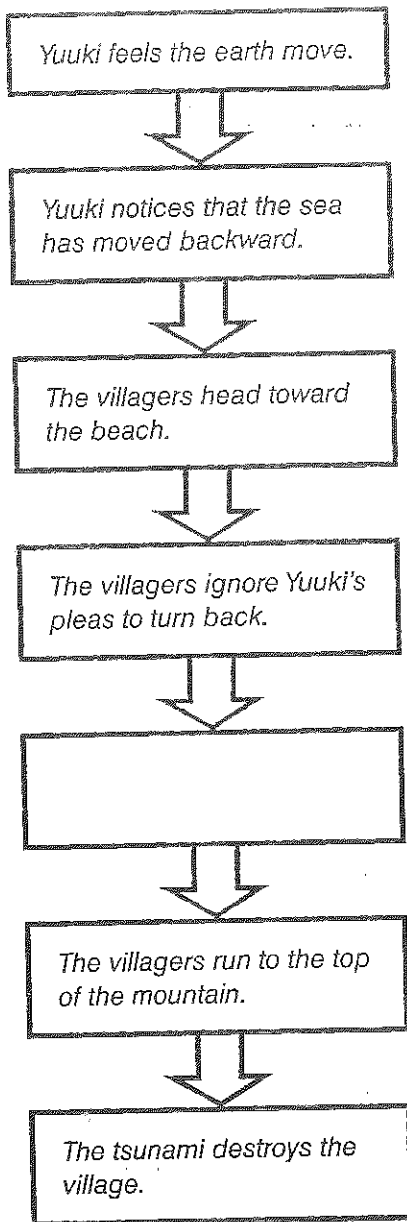
Yuuki: I am so sorry that I burned the fields. I had to find a way to get everyone to go to the top of the mountain.

Yuuki's Father: Yuuki, you saved us all!

Use the excerpt from "Yuuki and the Tsunami" (pp. 62–66) to answer questions 1–7.

- 1 What does Yuuki's grandfather represent in the play?
- A Old age
 - B Wisdom
 - C Superstition
 - D Happiness
- 2 Which line from the play gives you the clearest idea of the character who speaks it?
- F *Everyone respected him because he was so smart.*
 - G *Look how far the ocean has pulled back!*
 - H *There you two are! Fooling around again! Snap out of it!*
 - J *We have not had an earthquake in a long time.*
- 3 A synonym for wobbles in line 41 is —
- A bends
 - B looks at
 - C straightens
 - D shakes
- 4 Which lines reveal the play's conflict, or the central problem faced by the main character?
- F Lines 14–18
 - G Lines 36–43
 - H Lines 93–95
 - J Lines 143–149
- 5 What do the stage directions in line 134 tell you about Yuuki's feelings at this point in the play?
- A He feels confident about what he has done.
 - B He is angry at the villagers for criticizing him.
 - C He is nervous about telling his parents the truth.
 - D He feels sad that his grandfather is not there.
- 6 Based on Yuuki's actions and dialogue in the play, which statement is accurate?
- F He would rather talk than work.
 - G He wants to be a fisherman rather than a farmer.
 - H He knows what is right but doesn't have the confidence to do it.
 - J He possesses his grandfather's leadership qualities.

7 Read this diagram of events from the play.



Which of the following belongs in the empty box and describes the turning point in the plot?

- A Yuuki's mother sends him to scrub and dry the fruit for the festival.
- B The village boy tells what Yuuki has done.
- C Yuuki sets fire to the rice fields.
- D The villagers make fun of Yuuki for not wanting them to collect shells.



Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

For Deanna's Eyes Only!

Characters

JONATHAN, 11 years old

DEANNA, 14 years old

SCENE 1

- 1 [A teenage girl's bedroom. Jonathan sits on the bed reading a diary. He shakes his head, turns a page, continues reading. Deanna enters and stops short. She stares in disbelief as Jonathan goes on reading, totally oblivious to her presence.]
- 2 **DEANNA:** [Indignantly.] What do you think you're doing?
- 3 **JONATHAN:** [Startled.] Ah! [Slams the diary shut.]
- 4 **DEANNA:** What are you doing?
- 5 **JONATHAN:** Nothing!
- 6 **DEANNA:** You're reading my diary!
- 7 **JONATHAN:** [As if he's confused.] Diary?
- 8 **DEANNA:** [Pointing.] That! Right there! In your hands!
- 9 [Jonathan looks down at his hands and reacts as if he is shocked to see something in them.]
- 10 **DEANNA:** Oh, cut it out. You know what you were doing.
- 11 **JONATHAN:** I wasn't reading it.
- 12 **DEANNA:** I stood here and watched you. I've told you a million times to stay away from my things. Why are you even in my room?
- 13 **JONATHAN:** Doing you a favor.
- 14 **DEANNA:** Snooping through my private things? That's your idea of a favor?
- 15 **JONATHAN:** I wasn't snooping. I was cleaning up after you. Mom told me to straighten up the family room, and most of the mess was yours. If this diary is so private, why'd you leave it on the couch?
- 16 **DEANNA:** So to put my stuff away, you had to read my diary?

- 17 **JONATHAN:** No. I didn't even want to read it. But you gave me the impression that you wanted me to, so . . .
- 18 **DEANNA:** [*In total disbelief.*] What? I gave you the impression that I—are you crazy?
- 19 **JONATHAN:** Well, I figured from what you wrote on the cover . . .
- 20 **DEANNA:** I didn't write "For everybody's eyes—especially Jonathan's!" I wrote "FOR DEANNA'S EYES ONLY!" That somehow gave you the impression that I wanted you to read it?
- 21 **JONATHAN:** Well, if you write something like that on the cover and then leave it lying around, what do you expect?
- 22 **DEANNA:** I expect people to mind their own business.
- 23 **JONATHAN:** Oh, that's like putting a plate of brownies out on a table and then getting mad when someone eats one. If you really wanted to keep your writing secret, you'd bury it in the middle of some half-used-up notebook where nobody but you would even think to look.
- 24 **DEANNA:** So it's my fault you violated my privacy?
- 25 **JONATHAN:** It was kind of like false advertising.
- 26 **DEANNA:** False advertising?
- 27 **JONATHAN:** Sure. When you use phrases like "DO NOT OPEN—OR ELSE!" the reader is going to expect something riveting. Not complaints about the school cafeteria.
- 28 **DEANNA:** What?
- 29 **JONATHAN:** I'm just saying that with a title like that, the reader's going to expect some drama—or at the very least, an embarrassing story.
- 30 [*From offstage Deanna's mother calls her to leave for volleyball practice.*]
- 31 **DEANNA:** [*To Jonathan.*] This isn't over! [*Deanna exits, taking the diary with her. Jonathan shrugs and exits after her.*]

SCENE 2

- 32 [*Family room. Jonathan is watching TV. Deanna enters with the diary and sits on the couch opposite Jonathan.*]
- 33 **DEANNA:** O.K., let me hear it.
- 34 **JONATHAN:** Hear what?
- 35 **DEANNA:** [*Amazed.*] The apology you owe me for reading my diary!

- 36 **JONATHAN:** Oh that. I was kind of a sneak to read it behind your back.
- 37 **DEANNA:** Yeah, you were.
- 38 **JONATHAN:** You want to know the real reason I started reading it?
- 39 **DEANNA:** O.K., why did you?
- 40 **JONATHAN:** Well, lately, it's like I've been invisible to you.
- 41 **DEANNA:** What are you talking about? We do stuff all the time.
- 42 **JONATHAN:** We *used* to do stuff all the time. Have you even read your own diary?
- 43 **DEANNA:** Well, no. I've just been writing in it.
- 44 **JONATHAN:** About your friends. And school. And Jeremy.
- 45 **DEANNA:** And?
- 46 **JONATHAN:** And that's it. I'm not in it anywhere. Take a look. You won't even find my name.
- 47 **DEANNA:** [*Looks down at the diary in her hands.*] I guess I have been busy. But that still doesn't give you the right to read my private diary.
- 48 **JONATHAN:** I know. And I am sorry, but I just had to find out if you were mad at me.
- 49 **DEANNA:** [*Sighs.*] I'm not mad at you; I've just been preoccupied. I've been so busy with my first year of high school, trying to keep up and fit in. [*Pauses for a moment.*] But if you promise not to read my diary anymore, I promise to do something with you at least once a week from now on.
- 50 **JONATHAN:** O.K., sounds good to me. [*Pauses.*] But you may want to keep your diary in your room, just in case. [*Both exit the stage.*]

8. Read the dictionary entry for the word violate.

violate \ˈvī-ə-,lāṭ\ v
1. to break a rule 2. to interfere with someone's rights 3. to abuse something by causing damage 4. to interrupt a continuous state or action

Which definition most closely matches the way the word violated is used in paragraph 24?

- F Definition 1
- G Definition 2
- H Definition 3
- J Definition 4

9. What does Jonathan's dialogue in Scene 1 suggest about him?

- A He feels bad about reading the diary.
- B He misses spending time with Deanna.
- C He is deeply interested in Deanna's life.
- D He believes he didn't really do any harm.

10. What is the best summary of Scene 1?

- F After Deanna finds Jonathan reading her diary, the two have a conversation about his actions. Deanna feels as though Jonathan is always going through her private things without asking.
 - G Deanna catches Jonathan in her room reading her diary and demands to know what he is doing. Jonathan at first denies reading it but then claims it seems like Deanna wanted him to read it.
 - H Jonathan is cleaning up the family room and begins reading Deanna's diary because of what she wrote on the cover. He is disappointed to find that her diary does not contain any embarrassing stories.
 - J Deanna and Jonathan disagree over the meaning of the words she wrote on the cover of her diary. She thinks he should not have read it, and he thinks she is guilty of false advertising.
-

11. Which statement expresses a main theme of the play?

- A Writing can be a helpful way to deal with stress.
- B Keeping secrets can lead to problems in a relationship.
- C It is best to apologize when something wrong has been done.
- D People must make time for one another in order for relationships to thrive.

12. From Scene 1 to Scene 2, the dialogue between Deanna and Jonathan becomes more —

- F demanding and judgmental
 - G confused and suspicious
 - H honest and serious
 - J tense and angry
-

13. How is the play's conflict resolved?

- A Jonathan says he is sorry for what he did.
- B Deanna explains that she has too many commitments.
- C Deanna promises to spend more time with Jonathan.
- D Jonathan suggests that Deanna keep her diary in her room.

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