

OPEN SCHOOL BC

English 12

Introduction Assignment

This assignment is an opportunity for you to demonstrate your ability to conduct a close reading of a text, and to respond to the text effectively.

Student Name _____

Student No. _____ Date _____

Address _____ Postal Code _____

Based on the instructions provided by your school, complete the following *English 12* assignment independently and return it to your teacher.

There are three parts to this assignment:

Part A: Multiple Choice	4 marks
Part B: Short Answer	15 marks
Part C: Paragraph Composition	6 marks

Contents:

8 pages

Assignment time:

1 hour

Before you start, read these important tips.

1. Read each question carefully before answering.
2. Answer all questions to the best of your ability.
3. Take your time. Check your work before handing in the assignment.
4. Write neatly and check your spelling.

**Now read the following short story and answer the questions at the end.
(25 marks)**

It Was The Strangest Thing

It was the strangest thing. One minute my sister Stacy and I stood by the ocean arguing about what we were going to do that morning, and the next minute there was no ocean. The water drained out of the bay so fast it was like somebody took an invisible straw and sucked it up in one big gulp.

Where there was water, pink coral reefs now gleamed in the sun. Fish flailed on dark, wet sand.

"Hey, Jason, is that weird or what?" Stacy said.

It was weird, but I was too angry to agree. Day three of our family holiday in Thailand and I was already tired of my ten-year-old sister tagging along. I was fifteen; I wanted to have my own kind of fun. Without her.

Just as I was about to crack a joke about her being the weird one, I saw the wave. It was a wall of frothing, angry water and it was coming right for us.

For a second, I couldn't move . . . or even breathe. Everything seemed to slow down. A monstrous roar filled the air. I heard screams. Then the mist hit my cheeks and adrenalin kicked in. I grabbed Stacy's hand. "Run fast!" I yelled, yanking her up the hill towards the hotel. Mom and Dad were at the top, gesturing frantically for us to hurry.

We didn't get very far. The wave picked us up and smashed us against the wall of the hotel restaurant. I gripped Stacy's hand tighter than I'd ever gripped anything in my life. It didn't matter. The water flung us apart like we were nothing more than paper dolls. I went one way, she went the other.

"Jason!" Stacy cried. Her face was white with terror; she lunged for me.

"Help!" I tried to reach her but the water sucked me under. I hadn't taken a breath and my lungs felt squashed, like there was a semi-trailer sitting on top of them. I wondered, "Am I going to die?"

No, I had too much living left to do!

The answer gave me the strength to fight my way to the top. Clothes and chairs and bits of debris swirled on the surface of the water. A watch and wallet sailed by. I hardly noticed. I was looking for Stacy. For Mom or Dad. I didn't know where they were, which way they'd gone.

Panicked, I tried to swim, but the water was in control. It carried me around the side of the hotel to the lobby. Glass shattered, people screamed. A piece of counter smashed into my arm. The pain was so bad I almost passed out. I felt myself being pushed through the hotel to the parking lot. There were people everywhere, but no parents. No Stacy.

Then, just before my tears started, I heard her call. "Jason, I'm here!"

Stacy had grabbed hold of a palm tree and climbed to the top.

It took us a long time, but we finally made it up the hill away from the water. Mom and Dad made it too. We were all scraped and battered but we were alive.

Since that happened, I've never felt the same way about life. Or about little sisters. Both are gifts. You think that's corny? Try living through a tsunami and then talk to me.

Part A: Multiple Choice

Put the letter of the correct answer in the parentheses to the right. (4 marks)

1. Telling the story from the first person point of view provides:
 - a. access to Jason's thoughts and feelings.
 - b. access to Stacy's thoughts and feelings.
 - c. access to both Jason' and Stacy's thoughts and feelings. ()

2. Jason's resentment towards Stacy and his appreciation of her at the end of the story both suggest that:
 - a. Jason is unreasonably emotionally imbalanced and insecure.
 - b. Jason has a strong sense of responsibility towards Stacy.
 - c. Jason is indifferent towards Stacy. ()

3. The last line of the story suggests that as a result of the tsunami,
 - a. Stacy's attitude towards Jason has changed.
 - b. Jason's attitude towards Stacy has changed.
 - c. Stacy's attitude towards Jason has not changed.
 - d. Jason's attitude towards Stacy has not changed. ()

4. The line "No, I had too much living left to do!" indicates that:
 - a. Jason felt helpless in the tsunami, and regretted not being able to live his life for longer.
 - b. Jason's lungs "felt squashed, like there was a semi-trailer on top of them."
 - c. Jason wondered whether he was going to die.
 - d. even in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds, Jason realized he had a choice to try and survive. ()

Part B: Short Answer

1. Who is the narrator of the story? (3 marks)
2. What is the setting of the story? (3 marks)
3. Who or what is the antagonist of the story? (3 marks)
4. Identify what you think is a central theme of the story. (3 marks)
5. How does the natural world act as both a friend and a foe in the story? (3 marks)

Part C: Paragraph Composition

Answer the following writing prompt in a well constructed paragraph (6 marks).

Using at least one example from the story, explain how the author uses language to describe the ocean as though it is 'alive'.

