“Surviving the Tsunami” Quiz

Directions: Read the article “Surviving the Tsunami” on page 4 of the February/March 2012 issue of Storyworks. Then select the best answer for each question.

1. The author describes what Aki, Kana, and Fumiya were doing before the earthquake to show that . . .
   A. the students suspected that an earthquake would strike.
   B. it was an ordinary day until the disaster occurred.
   C. many students in Japan play sports.
   D. Japanese and American students are similar.

2. “In Tokyo, office buildings swayed like blades of grass” is an example of _____.
   A. a metaphor
   B. a simile
   C. personification
   D. alliteration

3. What could the students conclude from the earthquake’s six minutes of shaking?
   A. The center of the quake was 40 miles away.
   B. This quake was much worse than typical ones.
   C. A huge tsunami would be on its way.
   D. both B and C

4. How did the students’ tsunami education help them?
   A. They could predict what would happen next and make decisions about what to do.
   B. They knew to wait at their gathering place before evacuating to higher ground.
   C. They knew they should each take care of themselves.
   D. They had been instructed to run as far away from the school as possible.

5. What does submerged mean in the sentence “In a matter of minutes, hundreds of places . . . were completely submerged”?
   A. ruined
   B. blown away
   C. underwater
   D. without electricity

6. What did the students and teachers do immediately after the tsunami?
   A. went to another school building
   B. found their families
   C. stood stunned and shivering in the cold
   D. looked for emergency food and water

7. One aspect of a tsunami that Pearl Buck emphasizes in her description is its _____.
   A. blueness
   B. multiple waves
   C. silence
   D. speed

8. What does ebbing mean in the phrase “ebbing into the ocean”?
   A. sinking
   B. going back
   C. rising from
   D. splashing

Critical Thinking

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answers in well-organized paragraphs. Make sure you support your answers with information and details from the article.

9. What details in the article show the terrible effects of the disaster on Kamaishi?

10. What descriptions does each author include to help readers hear the sounds of the disasters?