



LO: I can think about the vocabulary choices the author has made.

In this next part of the story, the author explains the terrifying events that happen after the earthquake.

The author uses description and speech, read through it, thinking about what the author has done to make the once beautiful Pompeii seem scary and unsafe. What does Christina do that is really effective?

Once you have read through, answer the questions.



But as they ran, the sky began to darken and a thick cloud drifted slowly overhead.

Livia turned to Tranio "Why are the seagulls flying towards the woods?"
They're going the wrong way."

A small bird hanging in a cage chirped frantically, trapped behind its bars, as the air began to fill with ash. Livia coughed. "Tranio grabbed her hand. "We can't go back. The dust is too thick. Quick-the harbour! Run! Just run!"



Boats were bobbing on the choppy water as men began to untie the moorings on the ropes. No one noticed two small children climb up the narrow plank of a small Greek cargo ship and hide beneath a pile of coloured rugs. Dusty and tired in their hiding place they soon fell asleep.

Comprehension questions.

- 1) Why do you think the seagulls are flying the wrong way?
- 2) The author uses the adjective frantically to describe the bird trapped in a cage, what does that tell us about the bird?
- 3) How can we tell from the speech that is used that the children know they have to act urgently? Think about the punctuation.
- 4) What does the fact that the children are coughing tell us about the air?
- 5) Why are men untying the boats?
- 6) Why do you think that nobody noticed the children climbing into the cargo ship?
- 7) What do you think might happen next?