

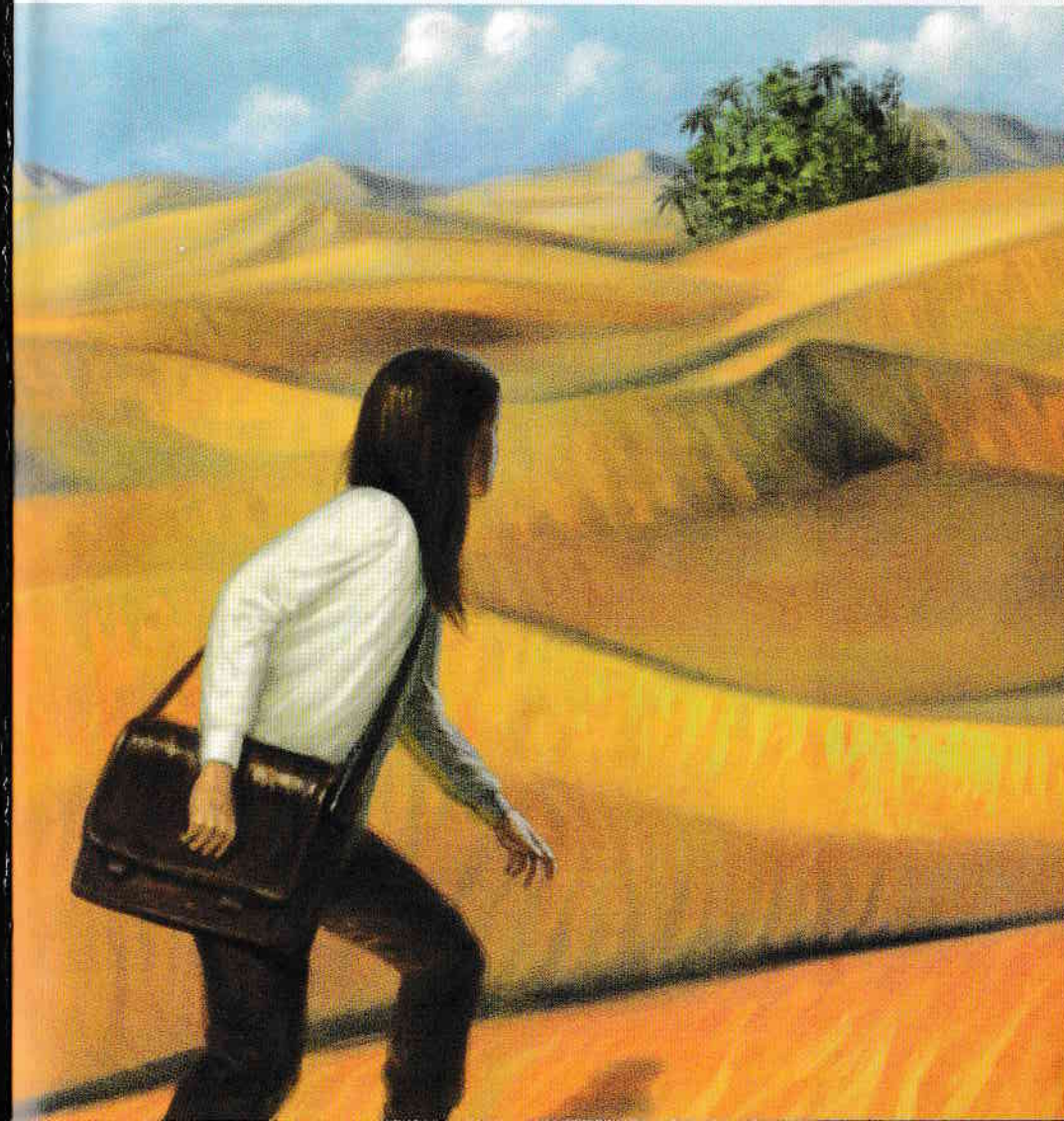
LBRIS

We know
books

Nicola Prentis

Rain, Rain, Go Away!

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The text is recorded in full.



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages



linked to the listening activities.



From left to right: Kailani, Dylan, the Old Keeper, Murrey, Viviana

Before you read



1 Listening

Listen to the sounds from Chapter 1 and match them to the description.

- A Kailani shouting and knocking on doors
- B sirens screaming
- C loudspeakers giving announcements
- D Dylan singing
- E acid rain falling

2 Prediction

- A Now you've heard the sounds, what do you think is going to happen in Chapter 1?
- B Look at the characters from the story on page 8. Who do you think will help Kailani in Chapter 1?

3 Reading

Read the text and answer the following questions.

The word *hydra* comes to English from Latin. But the word is even older than that as it was originally the Greek word *hudra*. In English we find it in the verbs *hydrate*, *rehydrate* and *dehydrate* which are words connected to water.

- Hydrate: to add water to something
- Rehydrate: to put water back into something
- Dehydrate: to remove water

In Ancient Greek mythology the Hydra is a nine-headed monster or sea snake that Hercules fights. Every time Hercules cuts off one of its head, it grows two heads in its place. So Hercules uses fire to burn each neck after he cuts its head off and manages to kill it.


- 1 Which language does the word *hydra* come from?
- 2 Which verb goes with the action of having a glass of water after doing exercise?
- 3 Why was the Hydra so difficult to fight?



CHAPTER 1

Deadly rain

T

he scream¹ of the sirens broke the calm of the sunny day. The rain was coming. 

Kailani looked up at the sky, along with everyone else.

'Is it going to rain?' asked her six-year-old brother, Dylan. His yellowish² face grew white and he pulled at her arm.

'It looks like it,' she said.

The sirens screamed again. Everywhere, people were moving as quickly as possible.

'I want to go now!'

1. **scream** : a very loud sound.
2. **yellowish** : a little bit yellow.

'Two more minutes,' she said. Kailani looked hopelessly at the line of people. They were almost at the front. She opened her bag and counted the soft, grey Hydration Pellets although she knew very well there were only six. They had enough for the rest of the day, but that was it. She was thirsty but she closed the bag.

Just ten more minutes, she thought. But the Keeper, in his blue uniform, was closing the windows and pulling the shutters³ down. There was no point waiting because there would be no more rations⁴ today.

'OK, Dylan! OK. We have time to get to the shelter.'⁵

She looked at the sky again. The clouds were moving towards the city. They started to walk as fast as Dylan could. He was too big for her to carry but he wasn't strong enough to go as fast as they needed to go.

'No running!' Loudspeakers in the streets started giving out their usual, unnecessary warnings. 'Walk calmly to your nearest shelter.' And then another siren screamed.

Kailani couldn't remember seeing anyone run. You would need a lot of energy to do that and most people needed all their energy just to finish a day's work.

They hurried past the huge TV screens. They were switched on, ready for the show. Kailani turned her face away. She already felt sick.

A crowd of people was outside the shelter when they arrived. She knew they were too late for this one. Dylan knew it too.

'You said we had time!'

'It's OK, there's another shelter two streets from here.'

3. **shutters** : wooden or metal doors that cover windows.
4. **rations** : something limited so you can't have much of it.
5. **shelter** : places under the ground where people hide from danger.



People pushed past them as they had the same idea. This was the worst time for the rain to come. Everyone was outside to queue for their rations. *The shelters would all be full*, she thought.

She pulled Dylan into a corner and waited for people to pass them.

There must be somewhere else we can shelter, she thought.

Above their heads, the clouds now blocked out the sun and everything looked grey. From the loudspeakers, the singing started and people joined in.

'Rain, rain, go away. Come again another day.' Dylan shut his eyes tight and sang as loudly as he could.

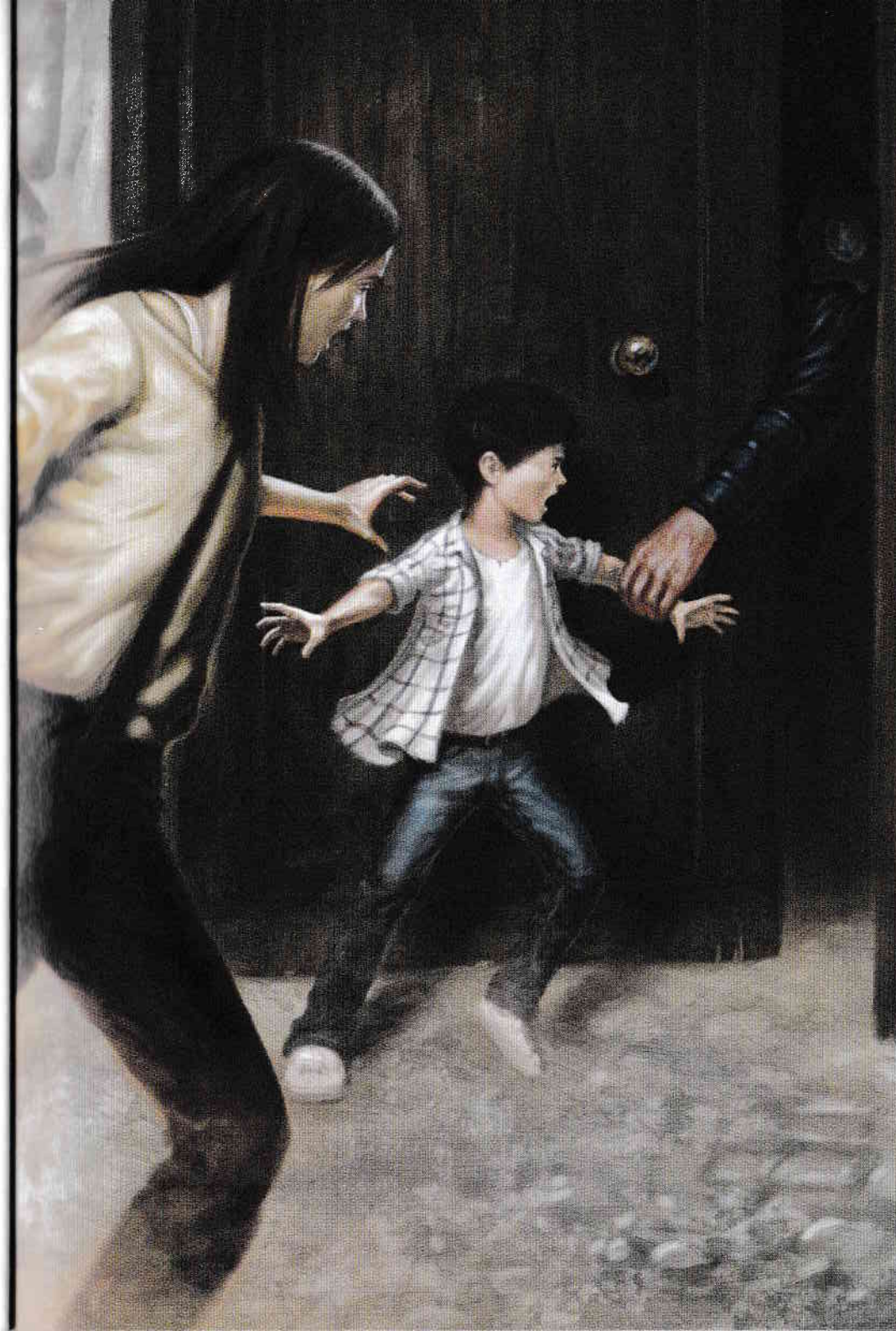
Kailani started knocking on doors.

'Open up, please!' She moved down the street, door by door, but no one answered. Dylan's singing wasn't loud enough to hear over the sirens but she could see his mouth moving. Kailani knocked on the last door in the street.

'Please, I have a child with me. Please, open the door!'

The door opened and an arm reached out, grabbed Dylan and pulled him inside. He screamed. Kailani screamed too. The arm was covered in the blue coat of a Keeper. The door opened wider and the same arm pulled her into the house and shut the door.

The silence inside the house made Dylan's screaming sound like it was on the loudspeakers.



1 Comprehension check

Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 People in the city get food from the Ration Centres. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Dylan is a healthy six-year-old boy. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Dylan and Kailani are too far away from the first shelter to get in. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 They didn't know why the sirens were screaming. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Kailani wants to watch the TV screens. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Dylan and Kailani are afraid of the rain. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 They get help from a Keeper. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2 PRELIMINARY Sentence transformation

For each question complete the second sentence so it means the same as the first sentence. Use no more than three words.

- 'Is it going to rain?' asked Dylan.
Dylan asked if it to rain.
- There was no point waiting for rations because the rain was coming.
The rain was coming there was no point waiting for rations.
- They didn't have enough time to get to the shelter.
They were too to get to the shelter.
- There would be no more rations today.
There wouldn't be rations today.
- Dylan sang too quietly for Kailani to hear over the loudspeakers.
Dylan didn't sing for Kailani to hear over the loudspeakers.
- A Keeper opened the door.
The door by a Keeper.

His yellowish face grew white and he pulled at her arm.

The suffix **-ish** is often used to create the idea of "a little". It can be used with adjectives, numbers, ages and times.

3 Word formation: -ish

Write short answers to the questions using the ideas in brackets to help you. The first one has been done as an example.

- How hungry are you? (a little bit hungry)
..... **hungryish**
- What time do you want to leave? (at about six o'clock)
.....
- How old is he? (about 30)
.....
- What's the weather like today? (a little bit warm)
.....
- How many people are you inviting to your party? (approximately 40)
.....
- What colour is her hair? (slightly red)
.....
- How much does lunch cost at the café? (about \$10)
.....

4 Vocabulary: odd one out

Circle the word that does not belong and say why.

- thirsty – strong – calmly – unnecessary
.....
- sirens – loudspeakers – TV screens – screaming
.....
- sky – Hydration Pellets – clouds – rain
.....