

Unit 3 Supplementary

Earthquake

M.S.Mahadevan



Warm Up

When was the last time you helped someone?
Write a few instances of your act of kindness.



Greetings, traveller. You looked tired and cold.

Are you a stranger to these parts? Waiting for the bus to Badrinath? Perhaps, you are a pilgrim or a visitor to the Valley of Flowers?

Anyway, whoever you are, come with me. Wait at my teashop. It is just past the bend in the road.

As you can see, I am carrying this can of milk to the shop. In ten minutes, I will have a fire going. While you warm yourself, I will prepare for you the best cup of tea in all Garhwal. It will chase away the pinched, blue look from your face.

Here we are. Welcome to my humble roadside teashop. Make yourself comfortable on this wooden bench. It looks **rickety** but it will hold your weight.

My name, Sir? I am called Brij. I am seventeen years old. I started this tea shop two years ago.

Before that I worked in a roadside shop outside Panipat. The heat, the crowd, the pollution – it was all too much. I had saved most of my earnings. I came back and with a little help I started this shop. By the grace of God, it provides me a decent enough livelihood.

Here, your tea is ready – strong, sweet, flavoured with cardamom. Enjoy it, Sir, while I get on with my chores. This is my daily routine. At sunset, I will shut my shop and walk back the three miles to my dwelling on the hillside.

The name of my village?

It was my village. The village of my ancestors.

It is no more. Molthi is gone.

What happened to my village?