



**Short Answer Type Questions (30 to 40 words)**

**1. Where were Prashant and his friends during the two days of the super cyclone? What did they live on? Where did they get their 'food' from?**

**Ans.** The rainwater was entering the house during the super cyclone. So, Prashant and his friend's family remained on the roof of the house for two days. Two coconut trees had fallen on the roof of the house. Prashant and his friend's family lived on them. They got their food from these tender coconuts.

**2. (i) Why was it difficult for Prashant to travel back to his village?**

**Ans.** There was water everywhere. He had to use his stick to locate the road. At some places, it was waist deep and the progress was slow. Sometimes, he lost the road and had to swim. After some distance, he found two friends of his uncle. They decided to move ahead together. They had to push away many human bodies floating on the water.

**(ii) "His heart went cold" when he reached his village. Why?**

**Ans.** At last Prashant reached his village Kalikuda. His heart sank. His house was gone. His family was nowhere. In order to look for his family, Prashant went to the Red Cross Shelter. Fortunately, his family was alive. They were very glad to see Prashant. He came to know that eighty-six lives were lost in his village and all the ninety-six houses had been washed away.

**Q.3. What were the two important tasks Prashant did after deciding to be the leader of the village?**

**Ans.** The first task was that he organised a group of youths and elders to make the merchant give them rice. They succeeded in their mission. Secondly, he made a team of youth volunteers. They cleaned the shelter of the dirt, urine, vomit and floating carcasses.

**Q.4. How did the villagers make the helicopters drop regular quantities of the flood?**

**Ans.** Prashant and others devised a plan to attract the attention of the helicopters. They deputed children to lie there with empty utensils on their stomachs. This was done to communicate to the helicopters that they were hungry. The scheme worked and the helicopters started dropping food regularly.

**ESSAY TYPE QUESTIONS**

**1. Describe the destruction caused by the super cyclone as narrated in the story 'Weathering the Storm in Ersama'.**

**Ans.** On 27th October 1999, Prashant went to meet one of his friends who lived in Ersama. The place was eighteen kilometres from his village. In the evening, a super cyclone came. Winds beat against the houses with great fury. There was heavy and continuous rain. Houses and people were washed away in the flood. His friend's house was made of bricks and cement. It was strong enough to survive the wind blowing at 350 km per hour. hut one uprooted tree fell on their house and damaged some part of its roof and walls. To escape the waters rising in the house, Prashant

and his friend's family took refuge on the roof. For the next two days, Prashant sat huddled with his friend's family on the rooftop. They froze in cold and rain. In the early morning, Prashant saw the destruction caused by the cyclone. There was a sheet of water everywhere. Only parts of cemented houses were still visible. All other houses had been washed away. Even huge trees had fallen. Bloated dead-bodies of animals and human beings were floating everywhere.

**Q.2. Describe how Prashant reached his village after the cyclone?**

**Ans.** The destruction caused by the cyclone and the waves of the ocean continued for the next thirty-six hours. Two days later, the rain ceased and the rainwater slowly began to recede. Prashant was worried about his family. He took a long stick and started on the eighteen kilometres long and difficult journey to his village. There was water everywhere. He had to use his stick to locate the road. At places, it was waiting deep and the progress was slow. Sometimes, he lost the road and had to swim. After some distance, he found two friends of his uncle. They decided to move ahead together. They had to push away many human bodies floating on the water. There were also carcasses of dogs, goats and cattle. In every village they passed, they could barely see a house standing. He feared that his family could not have survived the cyclone. At last, he reached his village Kalikuda. His heart sank. His house was gone. His family was nowhere. In order to look for his family, Prashant went to the Red Cross Shelter. Fortunately, his family was alive. They were very glad to see Prashant. He came to know that eighty-six lives were lost in his village and all the ninety-six houses had been washed away.

**Q.3. Describe how Prashant helped himself and others at the time of the natural calamity?**

**Ans.** The cyclone caused a lot of damage in Prashant's village and surrounding areas. Prashant decided to help his own family and the others. He organised a group of youths. They pressurized the local merchant to give rice to the starving villagers. They burnt a fire and cooked the rice, although it was rotten; His next step was to clean the place of filth, dirt, urine and floating dead bodies. They tended the wounds and fractures of many who had been injured. On the fifth day, a military helicopter dropped food. But it did not return. Prashant and others devised a plan to attract the attention of the helicopters. They deputed children to lie there with empty utensils on their stomachs. This was done to communicate to the helicopters that they were hungry. The scheme worked and the helicopters started dropping food regularly. The Prashant brought the orphaned children and made a shelter for them. He asked the woman to look after them. But he found that women and children were sinking deeper and deeper into their grief. A non-government organization had started food for work programme. Prashant persuaded them to join it. He engaged other volunteers to help widows start their lives again. The orphaned children were resettled in their own community.

**Q.4. The widows and orphans of village Kalikuda remember Prashant's help after the cyclone with gratitude. Explain how Prashant helped them in their darkest hour of grief.**

**Ans.** After the devastation, the shelter was established at Kalikuda. Around 2500 people were there. The whole atmosphere was grimy. The people survived on green coconuts. The men, the women and the children looked helpless. They were filled with fear and groaning for the dead. Prashant took the initiative and organised many groups. They could succeed in their efforts and got rice to eat. They got relief packages sent through helicopters. There was filth, vomit, urine. The floating carcasses could be seen all around. Life seemed slow there. The people there passed their time in gossiping and performing several activities. The situation of the shelter showed a clear picture of suffering humanity.

**Q.5. Do you think adversity or crises bring people closer? How? Explain with reference to the lesson.**

**Ans.** Man is a social animal. Despite food and other common needs, he cannot live without company and love of his near or dear ones. In adversity or crises, it is noticed that they come forward to help one another without any previous ill-feeling for one another. Adversity or crisis brings people together. There is a bond of humanity. The victims of the cyclone in Ersama helped one another. They worked together during this resettlement. They took care of orphans and widows. Prashant managed to unite them and work for one another. Thus, in the hour of grief, the people of the community joined hands under the leadership of Prashant. They came forward to help one another. Prashant brought the survivors together and formed a youth task force. The youth took the charge and volunteered themselves for cleaning the shelters of filth, urine and vomit.

**MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS: -**

**1. Where was Prashant when the cyclone hit his village?**

- (A) at the block headquarter about 18 k.ms from his village
- (B) in his village
- (C) in another stage
- (D) none of the above

**Ans.** (A) at the block headquarter about 18 k.ms from his village

**2. How long did it rain continuously in Ersama?**

- (A) for 24 hours
- (B) for 36 hours
- (C) for 48 hours
- (D) none of the above

**Ans.** (B) for 36 hours

**3. How did Prashant reach his village?**

- (A) travelling on foot
- (B) swimming through water
- (C) both (A) and (B)
- (D) none of the above

**Ans.** (C) both (A) and (B)

**4. What did Prashant see in the flood water floating?**

- (A) dead bodies of men, women and children
- (B) carcasses of dogs, goats and cattle
- (C) household possessions
- (D) all of the above

**Ans.** (D) all of the above

**5. The name of Prashant's village is**

- (A) kalikuda
- (B) ersama
- (C) palikuda
- (D) none of the above

**Ans.** (A) kalikuda

**6. Could Prashant meet his family when he reached his village?**

- (A) Yes
- (B) No
- (C) Maybe
- (D) May not be

**Ans.** (B) No