

Grabbing Everything on the Land

There came a wave like a great hand,
Grabbing everything on the land,
Its fingers of foam, circling round,
Uprooting trees, smashing homes to the ground.

It aimed its fist at everything in sight,
Nothing could survive this dreadful might,
People ran in and out in time with the tide,
Nowhere to go and nowhere to hide.

The hand was born in the belly of the ocean,
Fed by plates creating the potion,
It grew in fury, it grew in power,
The anger to be unleashed within the hour.

No one knew what was on the way,
People were working, children at play,
A shriek of surprise as somebody saw,
A huge wall of white horses galloping ashore,
The beasts dissolved under the heat,
Sweeping hundreds of thousands off their feet.

There was crashing and crunching and tearing apart,
Seeping its way into everyone's heart,
Lives were lost, bodies found,
Brutally killed by a hungry hound,
When the punch came with the force of an army,
The few that survived understood the meaning of 'Tsunami'.



- Lily Usher



Glossary

grabbing (v)	:	taking with a hand suddenly or roughly
uprooting (v)	:	pulling out of the ground
survive (v)	:	continue to live despite a dangerous event
dreadful might (n.phr)	:	terrible power
fed by plates	:	pushed by the movements of rock in the earth
potion (n)	:	water with a great force or strength
unleashed (v)	:	let loose
shriek (n)	:	a loud shout
white horses (n)	:	waves in the sea or ocean with white tops on them
galloping (adj)	:	increasing or spreading rapidly
beasts (n)	:	big animals
dissolved (v)	:	mixed in water and disappeared
heat (n)	:	(here) pressure
crashing (v)	:	hitting hard making a noise
crunching (v)	:	crushing noisily
tearing apart	:	destroying something completely
seeping (v)	:	flowing slowly
punch (n)	:	a hard hit made with the fist
army (n)	:	(here) a group of hounds compared to the waves of Tsunami

Answer the following questions.

1. What is the central theme of the poem?
2. What does the 'hand' refer to? Where was the hand born?
3. Identify the most striking line in the poem.
4. Describe the damage caused to mankind due to 'Tsunami'. Locate the words or expressions which tell the fury of 'Tsunami'.
5. Why do you think only a few could understand the meaning of 'Tsunami'?

