**Volcano Story**

Mount Pinatubo Volcano Story

April 2nd 1991, Javier and Pablo were playing a friendly game of football on the outskirts of the town Angeles, where they lived, in the Philippines.

All of a sudden dozens of people from the town began running towards them.  ‘What is all that about’ said Javier to Pablo, ‘why on earth is everyone running from the mountain?’  Pablo pointed to the sky with a look of horror on his face ‘LOOK!’ he shouted.  As they both looked up into the clear blue sky a large cloud of grey smoke was beginning to rise from the summit of Mount Pinatubo.

Meanwhile, Professor Kelly Brooklyn, a scientist at the Volcano Institute in Manila was looking extremely worried.  In the last hour over 400 volcanic quakes had been recorded.  Panic began to set in.  Mount Pinatubo had remained dormant for the last 600 years and today it had been awoken.

Javier and Pablo had rushed home as fast as their legs could carry them and burst through the doors of Pablo’s grandfather’s house.  ‘Grandfather Mount Pinatubo has started to release grey clouds and ash into the sky.  It’s going to erupt, it’s going to erupt, what shall we do?’  Pablo’s grandfather continued to swing in his old wooden rocking chair in the corner of the room by the hot coal fire.  ‘I don’t know what you’re worrying about.  That old mountain is sleeping, nothing has woke it up for the last 600 years and it’s certainly not going to be woken up today!’ Pablo’s grandfather said with confidence.  ‘But look!’ Pablo and Javier shouted together pointing to Pinatubo through the old wooden window.  Pablo’s grandfather rose slowly out of his chair, took his glasses off and rubbed his eyes ‘I can’t believe it, you’re right, what’s happening?’.

‘Hurry’ cried Javier’s mother while ordering him to pack up his belongings ready for the evacuation.  ‘We need to gather up as much as we can because if the volcano erupts our house could be destroyed, go and help your father load the truck up outside’.  Javier’s family was lucky; his father had a good job on a large farm near Pinatubo and was able to borrow the farm’s truck to help them move to the temporary shelters in Manila.  Pablo lived next door and was not so lucky but Javier convinced his father to help Pablo’s family too.  Javier and Pablo were unhappy because they had to leave a lot of their possessions behind as there was no room in the truck.  ‘Why do we have to leave’ Pablo moaned, ‘I like it here and I bet that the volcano’s not going to blow anyway because it’s been puffing out gas for two months now’.

Suddenly there was a large deep rumbling noise coming from the direction of the volcano.  The boys shot up from their seats and gasped when they saw what was happening outside the window.  With an almighty roar Mount Pinatubo had released the largest, darkest ash cloud to date.

The eruptions continued for 2 days, 80,000 people had now left their homes and had to relocate to temporary shelters.  Professor Kelly Brooklyn at the Volcano Institute had not seen an eruption of this size for half a century.

Questions

1. How was it known that the volcano was going to erupt?
2. What words did the writer use to describe the volcanic eruption?
3. Describe how you would feel if you were a villager like Javier or Pablo.