

# The Mighty Wave

by Susan Paris

## Summary

Antonio, Isabella, and their father are on vacation when a tsunami strikes. In the chaos and destruction left after the tsunami, Antonio and his father try to locate Isabella.

## Features of the Text

- Realistic fiction
- First-person narrative
- Direct speech
- Descriptive language
- Dramatic story involving a major natural disaster

## Purpose

*The Mighty Wave* can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated nonfiction title;
- making predictions about plot and character development;
- using visualizing to make meaning;
- identifying cause and effect.

## Guided Reading Summary

### Introducing the text

Explain that the story the students are about to read concerns a family that was on vacation when a tsunami hit.

- *What might happen in this story?*
- *Visualize the setting. What do you see?*

### Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 4 and make predictions about the plot, using evidence from the text to support their ideas.

- *Based on what you know, how do you think Antonio and Isabella would react to a disaster?*
- *How has the climax been introduced?*

Ask the students to read to the end of page 10, then discuss with a partner what they think might happen next.

- *How has the author complicated the climax?*
- *How do you think the author will resolve these issues?*
- *Have any of your initial predictions changed? Why?*

Ask the students to read to the end of the story.

- *Where might this family spend their next vacation?*
- *Why do you think authors write fiction stories based on real-life disasters?*

Explain that by making predictions, we engage with the text to anticipate what is about to happen. Discuss with the students some of the things they used to make predictions (knowledge of narrative plot structure, topic, genre, setting and theme).

## Following Up

The students can:

- use the blackline master on page 31 to write a letter describing Antonio's experiences
- use Antonio's account to write a newspaper article of the tsunami
- write a poem with descriptive language expressing the force and the effect of the tsunami
- research and discuss what would need to be done after a natural disaster and design a poster displaying this information
- create a plan for dealing with a different natural disaster and identify the precautions.