

Making Inferences

Refugee

When things are not explained literally in a text, you can use clues to reach a logical conclusion. This is called inference.

Read the short story, then answer the questions in full sentences.



In some ways, the events of the past week could have taken place a year ago. Time seems to have raced while standing still. The enormity of the attack on my home and family is yet to sink in for me. I don't want to think about it, don't want to remember it, don't want to look it in the eye and face it.

Forcing myself to put one foot in front of the other, I beat time with my pace and keep up with thousands of other homeless, shocked and frightened people. I don't know where we are going, but the movement of our tidal wave of bodies creates its own **momentum**¹ and we surge forwards as one.

Hundreds of homes in my **province**² have been destroyed by those once regarded as 'friends'.

Without shelter, food or water, the only chance of survival is to keep moving and stay together. The larger townships are in sight on the horizon and so is hope; the sort of hope that comes from not thinking too far ahead or **considering**³ too many options.

Shouting from the front of the group signals that safety has been reached. But who wants another thousand uninvited **residents**⁴? Who can risk sheltering 'the enemy'? Who has enough food for unwanted visitors? Hope is **tempered**⁵ with reality, but the rock to cling to is hope. Just one welcoming face, the offer of a cup of friendship, a warm hand in mine, could make the difference between life or death – my life or death.

Glossary

1. The power to increase or develop at an ever-growing pace.
2. A political region or division of a country.
3. Taking something into account.
4. Somebody who lives in a place.
5. Balanced



Questions

1. How can the passage of time change to feel quick and slow at once?
2. Why does the author describe the memories of the attack in human form (with an eye and face)?
3. Why does the author have to force their feet to move?
4. What reason could a 'friend' have for attacking other people?

Questions

5. If a thousand refugees marched into the place where you live, how would you react? Using information from the whole text, give reasons for your answer.