

Thursday 3rd February 2022

Task—Find evidence from the text that tells us that Lila struggled to climb the

Soon she could no longer see the top of Mount Merapi, so she knew she must be climbing the side of it. There were no plants at all here, not even shrubs or grass: just bare rock and loose stones. And the ground was warm.

'I'm close,' she said to herself. 'It can't be far now—'

But as she said that, she set her foot on a stone and it rolled under her weight and she fell, and a dozen other rocks rolled down with her.

All the breath was knocked out of her, and she had none left to cry out with as the rocks pummeled and battered her.

The rocks bounded on down the mountain until finally they came to rest a long way below. Lila sat up gingerly.

'Ow,' she said. 'That was silly. I wasn't looking where I was putting my feet. I must be more careful.'

And her throat was parched and her lungs were panting in the hot thin air, and she fell to her knees and clung with trembling fingers as the stones began to roll under her again. She let go her little bag of food and her blanket; they didn't matter any more; the only thing that mattered was climbing on. She dragged herself on bleeding knees up and up, until every muscle hurt, until she had no breath left in her lungs, until she thought she was going to die; and still she went on.

Then one stone bigger than the rest began to shift above her as the little stones beneath it tumbled down. It slid and rolled towards her and she had no strength to move; but at the last second it bounded over her and rolled on down the mountainside in a cloud of dust and pebbles.

Where it had been, there was a great hole as tall as a house. The moonlight shone into