World of Water

A series of interactive stories

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1. THE DISASTER (“be” verbs)

The year is 2009. What month is it? What is the date? Air pollution is a terrible problem on earth. Is water pollution a problem too? The natural environment is in a bad way. Animals and fish die. Every year the summers are hotter. Every year the winters are warmer. Are the other seasons warmer too?

There are a lot of earthquakes. Are there tsunamis? There are typhoons every year. Are there floods? Are there droughts? Are there landslides? People and animals and birds and fish die. The ice at the poles melts. The sea level rises.

In 2010 there is a huge flood. The east coast of America is underwater. Is the west coast of America underwater? The coast of Asia is underwater. The coast of Europe is underwater. Is the coast of Australia underwater? Is the coast of Africa underwater? How many continents are there?

In the new Waterworld of 2010 there are no more coastal cities. They are all underwater. There is no New York. There is no Tokyo. There is no London. There is no Bangkok. There is no Rio. Is there a Sydney? The great cities of the earth are all on the coast and they are all underwater. Most of the people are dead.

In boats and in the mountains people survive. Where are the Rocky Mountains? Where are the Himalayas? Where are the Andes? Where are the European Alps? Where are the other high mountains of the earth? What are their names? Is Mount Everest in Nepal?

In the Indian Ocean there is a terrific earthquake. The ocean floor rises. There is a huge tidal wave. How high is it? It kills millions of people. A new land mass rises. How big is it?

The high mountain ranges of the earth are now islands. The coasts of the former continents are underwater. Antarctica is a new country. It has no ice. There is a new country in the middle of the Indian Ocean. What is a good name for this new country?

Some people survive the disaster. They live in the new Waterworld. There is a large community of survivors in the Andes. What is the population of the Andes Islands? What is the percentage of men and what is the percentage of women? Most of the people come from Chile and Ecuador and Brazil. What other countries are near the Andes?

The capital of the new country in the Andes is Andes City. On the edge of the city there is a small community of Japanese people. Some of them are originally from Japan and some of them are Brazilian Japanese and Peruvian Japanese. Are there any Chinese people there? Are there any Americans?
The year is 2015. It is a warm wet day in Andes City. There are clouds in the sky. A young Japanese guy is in his house. Is it a wooden house? Is it big? How many rooms are there? How many people are there?

The young guy walks down to the water’s edge. He has a boat. It is not very long. How long is it? Is it wooden? He pushes it into the water. Does the boat have a sail? The young guy paddles away from the land. He does not go far. How far does he go? He goes fishing. Does he use a fishing line or a net or both? That day he catches a lot of fish. Are they big? How many does he catch?

In the afternoon, the guy takes his fish to the market. He sells them. Are there a lot of people in the marketplace? In the marketplace, most people speak Spanish but a few people speak other languages. What other languages do they speak? All the people are survivors of the disaster of 2010.

There is not a lot of food in the market place. There is a lot of seafood and there are some vegetables but there is not much fruit. Fruit is expensive. There are a lot of potatoes and onions but there is no rice. Nobody grows rice in the Andes islands. Are there any tomatoes? Is there any bread? Does wheat grow in the Andes islands? Does corn grow there? Is there any meat? Does anybody sell cheese or milk?

The guy sells his fish quickly. After that he goes to his girlfriend’s house. She is in the garden. She grows vegetables. She is an orphan. She lives with her uncle. She is from Japan. Which prefecture does she come from? She can speak Japanese and English and Spanish. She is very clever but she is not happy. She misses her mother and her father and she misses Japan. She can remember Japan. She can remember Japanese food. She can remember life in Japan before the disaster.

The Japanese guy is Brazilian Japanese. He can speak Spanish and he can speak Portuguese but he cannot speak Japanese and he cannot speak English. He is Japanese but he does not know anything about Japan. Sometimes his girlfriend teaches him about Japan. Does she teach him songs? Does she tell him stories? Does she cook Japanese food for him? Does she tell him about life in Japan?

The guy wants to marry the young Japanese woman but she does not want to marry him. She loves him but she does not want to marry him. She wants to go back to Japan. She wants to see Japan again. Does Japan exist? Are there any survivors? Is Mt Fuji an island?

The next day a big ship sails into the harbour of Andes City. There are not many ships in the world. Technology is simple. The world is new. It is only five years since the Great Disaster. Where is the ship from?
3. THE SHIP FROM ALASKA (present continuous)
It is another hot day in water world. A big metal ship is sailing into the
harbour of Andes City. There are not many ships in the world. Everybody
is very surprised. The ship is flying an American flag. It is a US navy
ship. There are soldiers and sailors and marines on the ship. It has
helicopters too. The ship is going around the world.

A second generation Brazilian Japanese guy and his first
generation native Japanese girlfriend are sitting on a hill. They are
watching the ship. They are talking about Japan. What is the guy
wearing? What is his girlfriend wearing?

The ship is coming from La Paz. La Paz is a city in the Andes.
What country is it in? The ship drops anchor in the harbour. A small boat
motors to the shore. There are marines on the boat. They are wearing
uniforms. Are they carrying guns? A lot of people go down to the shore
to see the ship and the marines. The marines talk to the people. They tell
them about the islands on Waterworld.

The famous cities of the world are underwater but many people are
surviving in the mountains. People are living in the European Alps and
the Himalayas and the Andes and the Americans are living in Alaska. Is
anybody living in Africa? Is anyone living in Australia? Is anybody living
in the Netherlands? That night the marines put up tents and they sleep on
the edge of Andes City.

The next morning the captain of the marines wakes up early. He
walks through the city. He climbs to a hill. He sees a girl. She is sitting on
the hill. She is looking at the sea. Is she feeling sad?

The captain sits down and he talks to her. They talk about America
and Japan. America is two groups of islands. One is in the Rocky
Mountains and one is in Alaska. The captain lives in Alaska. Alaska is
very warm now. Everywhere is warm. There are no cold places in
Waterworld.

Meanwhile the young woman’s boyfriend is sleeping. He wakes
up. He gets up. He puts on his clothes. He walks to the hill. He sees the
captain and his girlfriend. Are they sitting or standing? They are talking.
What are they talking about? Are they laughing and joking? Is the guy
jealous?

Meanwhile on the shore by the edge of the city the marines are
eating breakfast. What are they eating? What are they drinking? In the
market place people are selling fish and potatoes and onions but there is
no rice The captain of the marines has a bag of rice seed. He sells it to the
young man and his girlfriend.

A week later the ship leaves Andes City. It sails west. It is
exploring Waterworld. It is looking for survivors. What is in the west?
The young guy plants the rice and he waits for it to grow.
It is the year 2015. The planet earth has become a watery wasteland. Pollution has caused the temperature to rise. Warm weather has caused the ice caps at the poles to melt. The melting ice has caused incredible floods.

Many people have drowned. The ocean has flooded every coastal city on earth. Technology has been set back hundreds of years. People are struggling to survive. Only people in high places like the Andes, the Himalayas, the European Alps and Alaska have survived. Many many people have died. It is a huge disaster. It is a terrible tragedy. Millions of people have lost their lives.

Far up in Alaska and in Colorado Island, the United States has survived. Down in the Andes, Bolivia has survived. South of Bolivia a new Andean country has come into existence. A young Brazilian Japanese guy has planted rice in the new country. Has he ever grown rice before? Has he grown vegetables? He lives on the edge of Andes City with his family. How long has his family lived there?

The guy’s girlfriend is Japanese Japanese. He is Brazilian Japanese but she is Japanese Japanese and she wants to go back to Japan. He says Japan does not exist. She says it does. They argue. Nobody is sure. Nobody knows.

One day a ship from the Chinese Islands comes into the bay. The people in the ship trade with the people in the city. What do the sailors buy? What do they sell?

The young Japanese woman talks to the sailors. She asks them about Japan. They have never been to Japan. Have they been to Bolivia? Have they been to Alaska? Have they been to Europe? Where else have they been? Have they been to the Urals? Have they been to the Caucasus?

The young woman decides to go with the Chinese ship. She wants to go back to Japan. She gets a job on the ship. She gets a job as a cook. Has she ever cooked before? Has she been on a ship before? Has she been on a plane?

Two weeks later the ship leaves. It sails north to Bolivia. The Chinese sailors trade with the people of La Paz. Have the people of La Paz ever seen Chinese people before? Have any of the people in La Paz ever been to the Chinese Islands? Have any of them been to Alaska or Colorado Island? How long does the ship stay in La Paz?

After La Paz the Chinese ship sails east. It has a cargo of live cattle and other animals. It stinks. There are horses and cattle and sheep and goats. Has the woman ever smelled a lot of animals before? Has she ever been close to animals before? Suddenly a pirate ship appears on the horizon. Has the woman ever seen a pirate ship before?
5. THE PIRATE SHIP (future “going to”)

It is a sunny day on the edge of Andes City. A young guy is working in a rice field. It is the first rice field in Andes City. Is the guy wearing any shoes? The rice is growing tall. Is the guy going to harvest next month? Is he going to sell the rice in the market? How many kilos is he going to get? Is he going to plant more rice soon?

A middle-aged man walks up to the field. He stops and looks at the young man. He says “Hello”. The two men sit down and talk. The older man is from Bolivia. Has he ever grown rice? The older man has been in Andes City for three months. How long is he going to stay? He talks about Bolivia and he talks about boats and he talks about the sea. He has been to sea many times. Has he ever been to China? The older guy talks about pirates. The younger thinks about his girlfriend. He starts to worry about his girlfriend. She has gone to Japan. Is he going to go after her?

Meanwhile far out to sea in the middle of the Pacific Ocean a pirate ship is attacking a Chinese trading ship. The pirates are carrying guns. Are they going to kill the people on the Chinese ship? There are a lot of animals on the Chinese ship. Are the pirates going to steal them? Are they going to eat them? There are some women on the pirate ship. Are the pirates going to rape them?

Not far away an American ship is watching. The American ship has radar. Are the Americans going to help the Chinese ship? Are they going to attack the pirates?

Back in Andes City, the young guy thinks about his girlfriend and he thinks about the pirates. He worries and worries and worries. He harvests his rice and he sells it in the market and then he plants more rice but he cannot forget his girlfriend. He worries and worries and worries. He decides to follow her.

A month later another Chinese ship comes in to Andes city. It has been to Colorado Island and Bolivia. Has it been to Alaska? Now it is going to cross the Pacific. It is going to return to the Chinese Islands. How long is it going to take? The young guy goes down to the harbour. He talks to the sailors. He asks about his girlfriend. Nobody has seen her. Nobody has heard of her. He gets a job on the ship. He takes a bag of rice seed with him. Is he going to sell the rice in China? His best friend goes with him. He is tall and thin but his best friend is short and fat.

The guy’s father is going to take care of the rice fields. The weather is warm. He is going to try to get two crops per year. Is he going to sell the rice or eat it?
Two guys from Andes City are working on a Chinese trading ship. One of them is tall and thin. The other one is short and fat. The ship is sailing across the Pacific. It is heading for China. It is very slow. The short plump guy is working in the kitchen. The tall wiry guy is working on deck. Would you work on deck or in the kitchen?

The tall guy is following his girlfriend. She is going to Japan. How long has she been gone? The guy is worried about her. Would you be worried? Would you follow her?

The short guy is accompanying his friend. It is a dangerous trip. He is a good friend. Would you accompany a friend on a dangerous trip?

There is a tough guy on the ship. He is a bully. He picks on the short guy. The tall guy defends his friend. Would you defend a friend? The tall guy and the bully fight. Would you fight a bully for a friend? Then captain comes out of his cabin. He sees the fight. He stops it. Would you stop it? The captain locks the tall guy and the bully in a small room. Would you do the same thing? The tall guy and the bully do not get normal food. They have only bread and water.

The small guy works in the kitchen. He secretly gives vegetables and meat to the tall guy. Would you do that for a friend? The short guy gives meat and vegetables to the bully too. Would you do the same thing?

The bully is very grateful. He becomes friends with the tall guy and the short guy. The three friends play cards together.

After a month at sea the trading ship meets an American ship from Alaska. The Alaskan ship has been to China and now it is returning to the American military. Would you work for the American military?

The Americans want to start up the internet. Would you work on a project to start up the internet in Waterworld? The Chinese engineers are going to help the Americans. They are going to Colorado. They are going to dive under the sea. They are going to try to find Microsoft and Yahoo and Google. Would you work on a project like that? Would you dive under the sea? Would you do a dangerous job? Would you like to be a computer engineer?

The Chinese trading ship continues east. The American ship continues west. The young guy continues to look for his girlfriend. Does he worry about her? Would you?

The trading ship passes Papua. There are tribes of Melanesians in the forests on Papua. Papua is very high so it is still above the water. Does the ship stop in Papua? Would you stop there if you were the captain? Finally the ship arrives in the Chinese islands. The young guy looks for his girlfriend in New Beijing.
The year is 2015. Most of China is underwater. The Chinese Islands are all that remains of China. They are near Tibet. There is one big island and a lot of small islands. Most of the people live on the big island. The name of the capital city is Sijing. It means western capital. It is on the big island. Most of the people live in Sijing.

A Chinese trading ship sails into Sijing. Where do the sailors come from? There are a lot of sailors in the port. Where are they from?

A young Japanese Brazilian has come on the ship. He is looking for his girlfriend. She is looking for Japan. She is Japanese. The young guy leaves the ship and walks through the streets of Sijing. Two friends come with him. One of them is short and fat and the other one is very big. Where are they from? There are a lot of people in the street. Are they all Chinese? The three friends come to a big animal market. There are a lot of animals. What kind of animals are they?

The Japanese Brazilian guy sees a group of Japanese people. He asks them about Japan. Where are they from? The three friends walk further. They come to Japantown. Japantown is the Japanese section of Siling. There is a bamboo forest next to Japantown. Is the bamboo Japanese? An old man has a bamboo farm. Bamboo is very useful. The young guy talks to the old man. They talk about Japan. The old man knows the young guy’s girlfriend. She is still alive. She has gone to Japan. The young guy wants to follow her. He goes to a hotel with his friends. There are a lot of people in the hotel. Most of them are Asians but some of them are from Europe and America. A few of them are from Africa. None of them are from Japan. All the Japanese people stay in Japantown.

The hotel guests eat in a big room. The food is varied. What kind of food is it?

The next day the Brazilian guy looks for a boat to take him to Japan. There are a lot of boats in the harbour. Most of them are fishing boats. None of them are from Andes City. Are all of them from the Chinese islands? Are any of them from Tibet? Are any of them from Papua? Are any of them from Europe?

In the new Waterworld, many people live on boats. There are a lot of storms and it is dangerous. Most of the boats stay near the coast. Everybody is afraid of pirates. Only the sailors on the big American ships are not afraid. The Brazilian guy walks past a row of ships. Where are they from? Suddenly he sees a ship with Japanese people on it. It is a whaling ship. The people are all Japanese. Where are they from originally? The whaling ship is going to go to Japan. It is going to catch whales near Japan.
8. THE WHALING SHIP (adjective PLUS infinitive)

It is a wet stormy night. A whaling ship is chasing a whale near Japan. Is it easy to catch whales? Is it dangerous to catch them? Have you ever eaten whale? Would you eat it now? Is it illegal to catch them now?

Most of the world is underwater. There are violent storms at sea. Is it safe to be at sea in a whaling ship?

The storm gets worse. It is necessary to take the sails down. Is it easy to do that? The sailors climb the masts. Is it dangerous to climb the masts during a storm?

The captain has a wooden leg. He is drunk and crazy. He wants to catch the whale. He will not give up. Would you give up?

In the distance there is another ship. The ship is sinking. Are the sailors likely to drown?

It is customary to help another ship in trouble but the captain does not want to help the other ship. He wants to catch the whale. Is it difficult to find whales near Japan? Is it unlucky to ignore another ship in trouble? Would you help the other ship? The other ship sinks.

The storm gets worse and worse. The masts break. The sailors fall into the sea. The captain falls into the sea. Is it difficult to swim with a wooden leg? The captain drowns. The ship sinks.

The young Brazilian guy holds onto a floating plank. Most of the sailors drown. The Brazilian guy is alone on the ocean. The storm stops. The sun comes out. A whale appears. The whale swims around the shipwrecked sailor. Is it possible to ride on a whale? The whale is friendly. It wants to communicate with the shipwrecked sailor. Is it possible to communicate with an animal?

The sailor climbs on to the whale’s back. Is it safe to climb on a whale’s back? The whale swims for a long time. The guy falls asleep then he wakes up again. There is water all around. He is cold and tired and hungry. He cannot see any land. The world is a watery wasteland. Is the young man likely to survive? Is the whale likely to eat him? Is it common for whales to help people at sea? Is it common for dolphins to help people? The guy goes to sleep again. He dozes and wakes up and dozes. The whale swims on. Suddenly in the distance the young guy sights land. The whale is towing him to land. He stands up and dances on the whales back. He shouts and cries and laughs.

The whale comes closer and closer to the land. Suddenly some men come out in a boat. They chase the whale. They harpoon it and kill it then they drag it to their island. They cut it up and people start to cook it and eat it. The island is very small and there are not many people. Almost all of them are Japanese but a couple of them are Koreans and a few of them are Chinese too. It is Japan. The guy has finally made it to Japan.
9. THE TOP OF MT FUJI (gerunds)

The year is 2015. The climate of the earth has changed. The planet has become a waterworld. Only a few small countries are left. Many people have died. Most of Japan is under water. The top of Mt Fuji is sticking out of the water. Some Japanese people are living there. Mt Fuji is a volcano. Is living on a volcano dangerous? The people live in bamboo houses. Is living in a bamboo house comfortable?

The people have boats. They go fishing and they catch fish and they eat them. Is fishing fun? Is it difficult? Is it dangerous? Is eating fish healthy?

Some of the people go whaling. What is whaling like?

A young guy from Andes City is in Japan. He is looking for his girlfriend. There are not many people in Fuji City. Finding his girlfriend is not hard. He asks everybody about her. Is talking to strangers normal? Nobody knows her. Nobody has seen her. He is worried. He worries and worries and worries. Is worrying stupid?

The guy is alone now. He has come from South America. He has tried to find his girlfriend but he cannot find her. He has come to Japan but he does not know anybody and he is cold and alone and lonely. Is being alone sometimes important? Is being lonely sometimes inevitable?

An old woman comes up to the young guy. She wants to talk to him. Is talking to old people interesting? Is talking to strangers strange? She wants to talk to him but she can’t. Is not being able to talk frustrating? She can’t talk to him because she can’t speak English. Is speaking English hard? Is being able to speak English useful? He speaks Spanish and Portuguese and a little English but she does not speak English or Spanish or Portuguese. She only speaks Japanese. She has lost her whole family. She is alone in the world. She wants to share her experiences with him. She wants to tell him everything about her life. She wants to listen to the story of his life. She wants to do all these things but she cannot. The guy wants to talk to her too, but he cannot. Is talking to other people fun? Is it important? Is it necessary? Is showing your inner feelings good? Is it enjoyable? Is hiding your feelings healthy? The old woman starts to cry. The young man cries too. They sit on the beach together.

The woman takes the young man to her house. She cooks some food. Is cooking the basis of Japanese culture? They share food. Is sharing food the basis of friendship? All of the old woman’s neighbours are Japanese. They speak only Japanese. Speaking Japanese is necessary in Japan but is speaking Japanese enough to be a member of the world community? Is learning a foreign language rewarding? Is it rewarded?
10. THE STORM (comparatives)

It is the year 2015. The world has become a watery wasteland. There is almost no land. The surface of the whole planet is a huge ocean. There are giant waves and terrible storms.

In America, Colorado and Alaska are islands. Which one is bigger? In Japan Mt Fuji is sticking out of the water but the rest of Japan is under the water. There are mountains in Taiwan too. They belong to the Chinese Islands. Which is higher, Mount Fuji or the mountains of Taiwan? How does Japan in 2015 compare to Japan in 2005?

A young Brazilian guy is in Japan. He is looking for his girlfriend but he cannot find her. He comes from Andes City. How does Andes City compare to Fuji City in Japan? How does Brazil compare to Japan. The young guy is staying with an old woman. How does she compare to the guy’s mother?

One night the wind starts to blow. The waves get higher. It starts to rain. There is an earthquake and there are tsunamis. Many people drown. Many ships sink. The Brazilian guy and the old woman are in the house. It is a bamboo house. The house floats. It is a small simple house but it floats. It is like a houseboat. It floats away. There is another earthquake. Mount Fuji slips under the water. Japan is gone. The old woman cries. The young guy cries. Of the two of them, who is sadder? Who is more afraid?

The next morning the storm stops and the sky clears up. The bamboo houseboat drifts. The young guy catches a fish. The old woman catches a fish too. Which fish is bigger? They cook the two fish. Which one is tastier? Which is better, fishing from a boat or fishing from the land? Is living on a boat fun? Is it better than living on land?

The old woman teaches the young guy Japanese. Is learning Japanese hard? Is it harder than learning English? Is it harder than Spanish or Portuguese? The guy talks about his girlfriend. He tells the old woman about her. Does talking about her make him feel better?

The boat drifts for a long time and the two friends do not see land. They do not see land or any other boats or any other survivors. Sometimes they see whales and dolphins. They drift and drift and drift. Is being at sea boring? Is it better than being on land? Every day they eat fish. Fish fish fish fish fish! They eat nothing but fish.

One day after a month, the guy sees land. It is an island. The bamboo house floats up to the island. The guy gets a rope and he ties the house to the land. He gets off and he walks around. The island is not very big. Is it bigger than Japan? The old woman and the young guy stay on the island for a while but there is no food and there are no other people. The young guy wants to find his girlfriend so they leave the island and keep drifting. The guy builds a mast and a sail for the houseboat.
The boat continues to drift west. Sometimes they pass small islands. One day they meet a Chinese trading ship. It looks old. Does it look safe? One day they see a big nuclear-powered American ark but it does not stop. Does it look dangerous? The guy learns to speak Japanese pretty well but his accent sounds funny. The old woman learns to speak a little Brazilian too. Does her pronunciation sound funny?

After a month at sea the young guy looks very brown. Does the old woman look brown too? They eat fish every day. Do they look healthy?

After two months the little bamboo houseboat lands on the beach of a large island with mountains in the middle. There are some buildings on the beach and there are some houses up in the hills too. A group of people walk up to the houseboat. They look friendly. They are from many different countries but most of them are from Europe. Some of them speak French. Some of them speak German. Some of them speak Italian. A lot of them are Russian so they speak Russian. Does Russian sound nice?

After a while an old man with a long white beard comes up to the houseboat. He is the leader of the community on the island. He can speak many languages and he translates questions for other people. The old man takes the old woman and the guy to his house on the hill. It is a big house. It has a lot of rooms. He gives them a bedroom each.

The old woman goes in to her room. She looks at the bed. Does it look comfortable? She touches it. Does it feel soft? She lies down on it. Does it feel comfortable? She falls asleep immediately.

The young guy goes in to his room too. There is some fruit in a bowl. He has never seen that kind of fruit before. Does it look good? Does it smell good? He tastes it. Does it taste good? The guy lies down on his bed. How does it feel? How does he feel? He falls asleep.

An hour later he wakes up. He can hear music. Does it sound nice? He gets up and he goes into another room. The old man is playing a strange musical instrument. Does it sound nice? He is sitting in a room. The room looks nice. There is a piano in the corner and there are a lot of paintings on the walls. How do they look?

The young man talks to the old man. He asks about his girlfriend. The old man does not know the young guy’s girlfriend. She has not come to this island. The two men go for a walk outside. The old man tells the young man about the island. He tells him all about it. He shows him everything. They walk in the hills. They see cattle and goats and sheep. Some people are working with the animals. Do the sheep smell bad? Which animals smell worse, the sheep or the cattle or the goats? There are some horses too. Do they look strong? Do they look dangerous?
A young man and an old man are returning from a walk in the hills. They go to the old man’s house. The smell of cooking is coming from the kitchen. Does it smell good? The old woman is in the kitchen. She is cooking. What is she making? The woman always cooks. The young guy never cooks. Should women always do all the cooking? Should men learn to cook? Should the old man cook too?

The old man and the young guy and the old woman sit down to eat. Two other people arrive. They knock at the door. Should you always knock before you enter somebody’s house? The people sit around a table. They share the food. Should people share everything?

The young guy talks about his girlfriend. She is not in China. She is not in Japan. He misses her. Would you? Should he continue looking for her or give up? What would you do? The old man says he should stay on Paradise Island. Should he stay on Paradise Island? Would you? Should he forget the girl and get on with his life? What would you do?

The guy misses his family. They live in Andes City. It is on the other side of the world. Should he go back to Andes City? There are other Japanese people in Andes City. Should he take the old woman to Andes City with him?

The next day the young man walks in the hills again. He sees a small wooden building. It is a cheese factory. A man and a woman are making their own cheese. They grow all their own food and they make their own food. They are self-sufficient. Should all people be self-sufficient? Should rich people share with poor people? The young guy learns how to make cheese. Would you do the same thing? He stays on the island for a few months. He makes a lot of friends.

Sometimes the people on the island talk about Europe. Europe is to the west. Switzerland is above the water. Maybe the young guy’s girlfriend is in Switzerland. Should he go to Switzerland to find her? Would you?

One day the young man meets a young German guy. The guy wants to go to Switzerland. He decides to leave the island. The young Brazilian Japanese guy decides to go with him. They talk to the old man. What does he think? What does he say?

Life on Paradise Island is good. There is plenty of food and all the people are kind and friendly. Everybody works hard and everybody speaks several languages and everybody is an artist. Everybody shares everything. Should everybody work hard? Should everybody learn another language? Should lazy people receive food too? Would you stay on Paradise Island or try to find your home country?

The German guy and the Brazilian guy start to build a boat.
It is a hot day on the beach. An old man with a long beard is sleeping in a hut near the beach. He hears a sound. It sounds like hammering. He gets up and goes outside. Two young men are building a boat. The old man feels the wood on their boat. Does it feel smooth or rough? He looks at the boat. Does it look more like a canoe or a raft? He tries to lift it. Does it feel heavy? He smells the wood. Does it smell like pine or eucalyptus? Does wood smell good?

After a month the wooden boat is finished. The Brazilian Japanese guy from Andes City and the German guy are going to sail west. They are going to find Switzerland. The old Japanese lady is not going to come with them. She is going to stay on the island with the old man.

One morning the two young men stand on the beach. Does the water look cold? They push their boat into the sea. Does the water feel cold? The old man gives the two young men a big bag of food. The Brazilian guy looks inside. There is a big lump of something yellow. It looks like cheese. What does it smell like? There is also a big bag of strange red fruit. It smells like perfume. What does it look like? The Brazilian guy eats a piece of fruit. What does it taste like?

The boat sails away from the island. The two men look back. The island looks like a speck in the distance. There are clouds in the sky. One of them looks like a storm cloud. The Brazilian guy watches the clouds. They look like animals. What animals do they look like?

Suddenly the guy sees something in the sky. It looks like a bird but it is not a bird. It is very small and it is very far away. It gets closer. The two guys can hear it. Does it sound like a plane? Does it look like a plane? Do the two guys feel happy?

That night there is a storm. The sea is very rough. The waves look like walls of water. In the morning the water is calm again. The German guy opens the bag of food. It smells bad. What does it smell like?

The German guy cannot eat fish. He is allergic to seafood. The Brazilian Japanese guy catches fish and eats them but the German guy cannot eat them. He gets hungrier and hungrier and hungrier. He starts to look like a skeleton.

The Brazilian guy continues to eat fish every day. He catches a big silver fish and he eats it raw. Does it taste like salmon or tuna or what? Does it smell strong? The German guy watches. Does he look sick? The German guy gets weaker and weaker. He passes out. The Brazilian guy puts his palm on the German guy’s forehead. Does it feel hot and sweaty?

Suddenly the German guy jumps up. He screams. He grabs the Brazilian guy. He tries to eat him. What does human flesh taste like?
14. THE ALBATROSS (tag questions)

The year is 2015. That’s in the future, isn’t it? An environmental
catastrophe has caused the sea level to rise. The sea level is rising every
year, isn’t it? Most of the land on earth is under water. There are just a
few islands left. Far out in the middle of the Russian Ocean a small boat
is drifting. Russia is in Europe and Asia, isn’t it? Two guys are on the
boat. They are fighting. They are going to Switzerland, aren’t they?

The German guy is on top of the Brazilian guy. The Brazilian guy
is actually a Chinese Brazilian, isn’t he? The German guy has his hands
around the Brazilian’s neck. Germany is near Brazil, isn’t it? The
German is choking the Brazilian. The Brazilian guy puts his hands in the
water. He feels a piece of wood. He grabs it. He hits the German guy over
the head with the piece of wood. The Brazilian guy passes out. The
Brazilian ties him up. The Brazilian comes from Andes City, doesn’t he?
He is looking for his girlfriend, isn’t he? She is Italian, isn’t she? The
Brazilian has been to Japan, hasn’t he? He has also been to China, hasn’t
he? He has been to Australia too, hasn’t he?

A bird lands on the mast of the boat. It is a large white bird. Does it
look like an albatross? Albatrosses have very long wings, don’t they? It’s
unlucky to kill an albatross, isn’t it?

The Brazilian catches the bird with a piece of string and a hook. He
kills it and he cooks it. He wakes the German up. He feeds him. The
German is allergic to seafood, isn’t he? He wants to go to Switzerland,
doesn’t he?

The Brazilian guy talks to the German. The German is dangerous,
isn’t he? The Brazilian looks at the piece of wood. It has a little blood on
it. It is the German’s blood, isn’t it? Does the German have a wound on
his head? There are some letters on the piece of wood. They are
BANFWPP. What do the letters B-A-N-F-W-P-P stand for? The German
says the letters stand for “Bangkok Area Nuclear Fusion Water
Purification Plant”. Fusion is safer than fission, isn’t it? Japan uses
nuclear fission, doesn’t it? Bangkok is in Thailand, isn’t it?

The Brazilian washes the German’s wound. They continue their
journey. They eat birds and fish.

A month later the boat comes to an island. The two travellers see
cows and green grass. There are European people and there are modern
buildings. Switzerland has four languages, doesn’t it? The capital is
Zurich, isn’t it? Most of the people in Zurich speak German, don’t they?

The boat lands on the shore and the police come. The two travellers
do not have a permit to arrive in Switzerland. The police put them in
prison. Switzerland is different from Paradise Island, isn’t it? The old
man on Paradise Island welcomes everybody and helps everybody. The
Swiss government imprisons visitors. The Swiss system is better, isn’t it?
15. THE SWISS SLAVE CAMP (passive present)

Two young men are in a prison cell. There are lots of other people there too. They are all illegal immigrants. Every day they go out into the fields and they work. Some of them work in the fields and some of them work in factories. Is rice grown in the fields? What other crops are grown in the fields? Are guns produced in the factories? What products are produced in the factories?

A month after their arrival, the Brazilian and the German are taken to a courtroom. Are they wearing handcuffs? There is a big desk with a man behind it. He is the judge. The two travellers are tried by the judge. They are found guilty. They are sentenced to five years in prison. They are taken back to the prison. There are prisoners from all over Europe in the prison. What languages can be heard there? The prisoners are all illegal immigrants. They are forced to work in the fields. They are not paid. They are slaves. How many people are imprisoned in the Swiss prison?

Meanwhile far to the south and the east a fleet of pirate ships are anchored to a huge tower. The words BANFWPP are written on top of the tower. The tower is a water purification plant but the water purification plant is broken. The tower is used by the pirates as a dock. Their boats are tied to the tower. The crews of the pirate ships are Thai, Indonesian, Malay, Indian and Chinese. What languages are spoken among them?

The King of the Pirates is a tall handsome Chinese Malay. He has three wives. One of his wives is a Japanese girl from Andes City. The Japanese wife is sitting in a cabin on the Pirate King’s ship. She is pregnant. She is carrying the Pirate King’s child. Is she allowed to leave her room? What is she wearing? Is she given enough food? Is she a prisoner?

Meanwhile to the east an American trading convoy is travelling from Colorado to the Chinese Islands. The convoy is escorted by an American Ark. There is a huge storm. The convoy is separated from the ark. The next day one of the ships is attacked by pirates. The cargo is stolen, the men are murdered and the women are taken prisoner. One of the women is the daughter of an American businessman. She is very beautiful. She is taken to the BANFWPP tower. Is she tied up? Is she given food? Is she raped?

The Pirate King likes the American woman. He makes her his fourth wife. She is put in a room with the Japanese woman from Andes City. Is she given nice clothes? Is she given jewellery?
In southeast Asia, there is a huge tower. It used to be a water purification tower but now it is a dock for pirates. It used to belong to Thailand but now it belongs to pirates. Thailand used to be a popular tourist destination. What did the capital of Thailand use to be? Which countries used to border Thailand?

In a ship’s cabin, the Pirate King’s wives are relaxing. One of them used to live in America. One of them used to live in Andes City. Where did the other two wives use to live?

The wife from Andes City is Japanese. Where did she use to live in Japan?

Far away on the other side of the world a Brazilian Japanese guy is in a prison in a Swiss slave camp. He used to live in Brazil then he used to live in Andes City and now he lives in Switzerland. Where did he use to live in Brazil? Did he use to live in any other countries?

One day a convoy of US ships comes to Switzerland. America used to be huge country. How many states did there use to be? Now America is a small country with two islands, one in Colorado and one in Alaska. America trades with China and Switzerland. Did America use to trade with China before the disaster? Did America use to trade with Switzerland before the disaster?

The Americans want to stop the pirates in the southern hemisphere. They want people to join their army. They take the prisoners from the Swiss slave camp. The Brazilian Japanese guy is one of them. He joins the American military. They sail to the southern hemisphere.

The America ships stop at a large country in the Indian Ocean. It is a new country. It did not use to be there before. What countries used to form the edges of the Indian Ocean before the disaster?

The new country is big and hot. It has a lot of volcanoes and it is not stable. It is dangerous. Is there any poison gas there?

The Americans want to attack the pirates. They want to attack from the west. They approach the Old Tower. They get closer and closer. What did the tower use to be used for?

The Brazilian guy is on one of the American ships. He is thinking about his girlfriend. He has not seen her for more than two years. He used to love her very much but now he cannot remember her face.

Two days later the attack on the Bangkok Tower starts. The American ships approach at night. They bomb the tower. The tower falls over and a lot of small ships sink. Some ships try to escape. The Americans follow them. The Americans are global policemen. Did they use to be global policemen before the great disaster?
It is early in the morning at sea. Piles of debris are floating on the ocean. A pirate’s corpse is floating in the water. It has been floating there all night. How long have the pirates been operating in these waters?

An old wooden ship is sailing east. A smaller, faster metal American patrol boat is following the old boat. In the distance there is an island. A Japanese woman is sitting by a porthole in the old wooden boat. Has she been sitting there very long? She is looking out. How long has she been looking out? She can see the American boat. It is getting closer. How long has she been watching it?

One of the guys on the American boat is a Brazilian Japanese from Andes City. He is working for the US military. How long has he been working for them? He is going to become an American. He used to be a slave in Switzerland but now he is a marine in the American navy. How long has he been working on this ship?

The American patrol boat overtakes the wooden sailing boat. Some American marines board the wooden boat. They shoot one pirate. The other pirates surrender. There are some women below deck. They are prisoners. The Americans free them. Four of the women are the wives of the pirate king. They have been living on the boat for a long time. How long has each of them been living there?

One of the wives is a Japanese woman. She is the girlfriend of the Brazilian Japanese guy. Does he recognize her immediately? Does she recognize him? He has been looking for her for a long time. How long has he been searching for her? Has she been thinking about him a lot recently? The two lovers are reunited. The American boat begins to tow the pirate boat. They travel east. They are going to meet up with their mother ship.

Night falls. The captain of the patrol boat decides to anchor near an island. There is a beautiful beach on the island. There are snow-capped mountains above the beach. The island is part of Papua. There are some people on the beach. They are fishing. They have been living in this area for thousands and thousands of years. One of the men is using an unusual fishing net. How long have people been using nets like that in this area? The sea level has risen and fallen and risen and fallen and the Papuans have survived because they are mountain people. Their country is surrounded by thick forests and there are high mountains in the middle.

A young Brazilian Japanese marine and his Japanese girlfriend stand on the deck of the boat. They have not seen each other for a long time. How long has it been? The captain looks up and sees the couple standing on deck. How long have they been standing there? The captain is angry.
It is early in the morning. An American patrol boat is anchored off a Papuan beach. Is the American navy the most powerful navy in the world? The Americans have rescued some people from pirates. The four wives of the pirate king are on the boat. Suddenly there is an attack. It is the pirate king. He is the fiercest pirate in the world. He has been controlling the waters in this area for more than five years. Is he the most dangerous man in the world? Everybody is afraid of him. He has been watching the American boat all night. His men attack in canoes. They recapture the women and children. They take them on shore. Some of the Papuans are pirates too. The pirate king has a secret hideout high up in the Papuan mountains. The pirates hike up into the mountains.

The captain of the patrol boat radios for help. Another patrol boat comes three hours later. It is from the same mother ship. What is the name of the mother ship? Is it the biggest ship in the American navy? Is America the most powerful country on earth? Is it the most democratic? Is it the most racially diverse?

The marines follow the pirates into the mountains. Are they the highest mountains in Papua? Are they the wettest? Do they have the most interesting fauna? Do they have the most interesting flora? Are they home to any endangered species? Are they the only hideout the pirate king has on land? Is the hideout in these mountains, the king’s best hideout? Is it the biggest? Is it the best-defended?

The young Brazilian Japanese lad is quite upset. He has found his girlfriend after an interval of many years and then he has lost her again. The pirates have kidnapped her and they have taken her to their secret hideout in the mountains.

Papua is one of the most isolated places in the world. Even before the disaster, it was inaccessible. Was it the most inaccessible place in the world before the disaster? Is it the most inaccessible place in the world after the disaster?

Three American boats arrive in the bay. A large troupe of American marines lands on the beach. The marines hike in to the mountains. They are from different parts of the United States. Where is the tallest guy from? Where is the shortest guy from? Where is the strongest guy from? Where is the best looking guy from? Where is the loudest guy from? Where is the quietest guy from?

Some of the marines are not originally American. Some of them are mercenaries from the Swiss slave camp. Would you join the Marines to escape slavery? About a quarter of the marines are from the Swiss slave camp. What nationalities are they? Where is the oldest mercenary from? Where is the youngest mercenary from?
High up in the mountains of Papua a group of marines are trekking through the jungle. They are looking for a pirate hideout. Basically the situation is this: The American navy has destroyed the pirates’ Bangkok Tower base and some of the pirates have escaped. Some of them have been killed and some of them have survived. What percentage of them have been killed? What percentage of them have survived? The marines have captured the pirate king’s wives. How many times has the pirate king been married? The pirates have recaptured the four wives. Two of the wives are unwilling members of the king’s household. One of them is American and the other is a young Japanese woman from Andes City. They have been re-kidnapped by the pirates. They have been taken to a secret base high up in the mountains.

The marines are trekking through the jungle. They have had several skirmishes with the pirates. Have any of them been shot? Have any of them been stabbed? Have any of them been killed?

Meanwhile in a hidden valley, the young Japanese woman is in a hut. She has been recaptured by the pirates and taken to this secret mountain hideout. She is pregnant with the pirate king’s child. Has she been given enough food? Has she been given something to drink? Has she been well taken care of?

Some of the pirates have guns but some of them do not. Some of them have swords. Some of them have been wounded by the marines. How many of them have been wounded? Have any of them been killed?

Suddenly the sound of shooting can be heard. The marines are attacking the pirate camp. A young Brazilian Japanese guy is with the marines. How long has he been enlisted? Has he been promoted since he enlisted? What kind of weapons has he been taught to use? Has he been taught to scuba dive?

The battle continues for a long time. Many pirates are killed and many marines are killed too. Suddenly the sound of a helicopter can be heard. The captain of the marines orders the marines to stop shooting. The king of the pirates orders the pirates to stop shooting. The helicopter lands. The president of the United States gets out of the helicopter. A rich American Businessman and a rich Swiss businessman are with him. They talk to the pirate king. They laugh and tell jokes and they look happy. The president and the king are friends. The king agrees to pay tax to the United States. He agrees to return the rich businessman’s daughter. She has been kidnapped but now she is freed. The pirates release the Japanese woman too. The marines go back to their ships. The fighting is over. How many marines have been killed? How many pirates have been killed? How many businessmen have been killed?
20. RETURN TO ANDES CITY (relative clauses; who, which, that)

The year is 2018. A young Japanese Andean couple are sitting on the front veranda of their house on a hill above Andes city. They are looking at the harbour below. There are three ships in the harbour. One of them has come from China, one of them has come from Bolivia and one of them has come from Colorado. Is the one that has come from Colorado American? Is the one, which has come from China American? Where is the one that has come from Bolivia from? What kind of ships are they?

The young couple grow their own rice and vegetables. They also catch fish. Do they sell the fish that they catch in the market? They have a flock of sheep too. Do they sell the wool that the sheep grow? Do they kill the sheep and sell the meat too? Do they sell the rice that they grow?

The young couple have two children. They are both boys. One of them is the son of a pirate king. The other one is the son of the young man. The two boys are playing in front of the house. One of them is standing up and one of them is sitting down. Is the one who is standing up the son of the pirate king? Is the one who is sitting down the son of the pirate king?

That afternoon some of the couple’s friends come to their house for a barbecue. They cook roast mutton. Is the meat that they cook from one of their own sheep? They eat the meat with rice. Is the rice that they eat from their own fields? Some of the friends who come to the house are ex-marines. The young man talks to one of his friends. Is the friend who he talks to an ex-marine?

The woman is pregnant with her third child. Does she think about the pirate king sometimes? Is the child that she is carrying the child of the pirate king?

One of the couple’s sons comes up to the young man. He listens to the man talk to his friend. He wants to go to another country. He wants to meet people who speak other languages and think different thoughts.

The young man and his friend laugh. Andes City is small and quiet and peaceful. It is a good place to live. They do not want to leave.

The boy who wants to travel is the son of the pirate king. He lives with the Japanese Andean couple but his real father is a Chinese Malay pirate king, who is friends with the president of the US. Does he want to meet his biological father? The boy goes into the house. He sees his mother. He talks to her. What language do they speak? He says that he wants to go overseas. He says that he wants to go to Japan. The woman looks at him. She remembers her life. She remembers the trip to China and her kidnapping. She remembers the pirate king and life at the Bangkok Water Tower. Does she still want to go to Japan? Is she satisfied with her life? Would you be?