

It was a morning not unlike any other. The giant, skyline consuming mountain with plumes of smoke gently puffing from the peak rumbled and grumbled like a hungry stomach and Acilia slept soundly – mountainous rumblings happened all the time in those days. Acilia was 12. She had wavy auburn hair which usually covered her emerald green eyes. Beneath her eyes sat a rather large nose with a ridge half way down. Out of her nose came a large breath and a slight snore as she dreamed of fire and the sun. These dreams happened all the time for Acilia; her name meant 'woman of fire' and Acilia often wondered if this was the reason for her dreams. Interrupting her slumber, her younger brother Cessy burst into her room, "Wake up! Wake up!"

"Cessy, what now?" Grumbled Acilia.

"Are you awake Acilia? Something bad is about to happen!"

"What is it now, Cessy? Nothing bad ever happens," Acilia sighed.

"I can feel it again – the rumbling in my stomach," Cessy complained.

"I hate it." Acilia turned over and went back to sleep, ignoring her brother. He always had these feelings in his stomach recently. Cessy had been blind since birth and regularly has strange senses. He heard things that others didn't. He felt things that others couldn't. Acilia was too tired to deal with her brother's feelings this morning. As far as she was concerned, it was just another normal day in Pompeii.

How does the author demonstrate the relationship between Cessy and Acilia?

How does the author's choice of names give a hint to what might happen in the story?

What affect do the short sentences in the final paragraph have on the reader?

How are the sentence in the first paragraph linked?

Which section was the most interesting / exciting? Why?

What do you think has happened in the days leading up to this passage? Why?

What do you think will happen next? Why?