

# **ESCAPING THE GIANT WAVE**

<b>Author:</b>	Peg Kehret
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<b>Publisher:</b>	Aladdin Paperbacks, A Division of Simon and Schuster
<b>About the Author:</b>	<p>Peg Kehret is an animal lover! She has been a long-time volunteer at the Humane Society and often has animals in her stories. Peg lives in a log house on ten acres of forest near Mt. Rainer National Sanctuary in Washington state. Her property is a sanctuary for deer, elk, rabbits, and many varieties of birds. Peg was married to Carl Kehret in 1955. They adopted two children, Bob and Ann. She attended college for two years at the University of Minnesota. In 1970, Peg and Carl moved to Washington state where she still lives. Husband, Carl, has since passed away in 2004. Peg has always loved to write. Before she began writing children's books, she wrote radio commercials, plays, and magazine stories. Her first book for children, <i>Winning Monologs for Young Actors</i>, was published in 1985. Peg has won twenty-one children's state book awards, the Golden Kite Award, the Pen Center West Award, and the Henry Bergh Award from the American Society for the Cruelty to Animals. Her hobbies include reading, watching baseball, playing her player piano, visiting with her grandchildren, and playing with her animals.</p>
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<p><b>Annotation:</b></p>	<p>Thirteen-year-old Kyle Davidson, his sister BeeBee, and their parents head to the Oregon Coast for a perfect family vacation. BeeBee and Kyle have never been out of Kansas, so when their father wins a “Salesman of the Year Award”, the entire family gets to go to the award conference in Oregon. However, this vacation doesn’t turn out the way Kyle expected. While there, Daren, the school bully, turns up and Kyle must babysit for an eight-year-old sister that is obsessing over the financial market. His father and mother have gone off on a cruise for the award ceremony and a terrible disaster takes place. An earthquake comes, followed by a fire at the hotel. Kyle and BeeBee must fight their way out through flames and smoke. Kyle remembers the sign at the beach warning people to go uphill and inland after an earthquake, as giant tsunami waves can follow. Kyle and BeeBee flee uphill as a tsunami crashes over the beach, the hotel, and the town. The giant wave moves up the hill and through the woods where the children are running for their lives. The perfect vacation has become a nightmare! Kyle and his sister must be quick witted to save their lives in the events that follow.</p> <p><i>Escaping the Giant Wave</i> is an interesting story and suspenseful story. Author, Peg Kehret, has touched on several powerful issues, being: natural disasters and bullying. Although this book would be a great opener for discussion and study with these subjects, the story could use more details and better descriptions to enhance the characters and plot.</p>
<p><b>Booktalk:</b></p>	<p>Thirteen-year-old Kyle thought spending a vacation on the Oregon coast with his family would be fun. He’d never seen the Pacific Ocean and had summer goals to achieve, as promised to his sixth grade teacher, Mrs. Hoke. He wanted to raise his batting average over .250, learn to pop a wheelie on his scooter, get his mom and dad to increase his allowance, and TO MAKE DAREN HAZELTON, A.K.A. CLASS BULLY, LEAVE HIM ALONE. Then it all began...Daren, the bully, shows up at the same hotel and while Kyle is babysitting little sister BeeBee, an earthquake rocks the hotel and starts a fire in the hotel! While fighting the smoke and flames, Kyle remembers the sign at the beach that says Tsunamis can follow earthquakes. They must run uphill with the question on their minds... “CAN KYLE AND BEEBEE OUTFIGHT NATURE’S TERROR TO SAVE THEMSELVES?”</p>
<p><b>Characters:</b></p>	<p><b>Kyle Davidson-</b> the main character and thirteen-year-old boy from Edison School in Kansas  <b>BeeBee-</b> brainy eight-year-old sister of Kyle’s who is being babysat by Kyle at the time of the disaster  <b>Daren Hazelton-</b> class bully from sixth grade who shows up at the Oregon Coast hotel and shares the disaster with Kyle and his sister  <b>Mr. and Mrs. Davidson-</b> real estate salespeople and parents of Kyle and BeeBee  <b>Norm and Josie-</b> elderly friends whom Kyle and BeeBee meet while fleeing in the woods to outrun the tsunami</p>

<b>Conflict:</b>	Kyle's perfect vacation becomes a nightmare while he is babysitting his sister. An earthquake hits the coastal area where the family is staying, resulting in a fire in their hotel. Shortly afterward, a tsunami follows, terrifying everyone around. In Kyle's external struggle, he must make independent decisions quickly to outwit the dangers and save the lives of his sister and himself.
<b>Conflict Resolution:</b>	Kyle succeeds in making good decisions in the face of the dangers. He is able to lead his sister BeeBee and classmate, Daren, out of the smoke and flame-filled hotel. He follows the warnings on the sign posted at the beach, taking BeeBee uphill and inland to escape the giant waves, even against the advice of bully, Daren. Kyle and his sister are finally reunited with their parents and have learned how to react in the face of an emergency and how to handle a bully, to boot!
<b>Genre:</b>	Adventure/Survival Fiction
<b>If you like this book, you'll love...</b>  <b>By Peg Kehret...</b>  <b>Same genre...</b>	<i>The Volcano Disaster</i> <i>Earthquake Terror</i> <i>Nightmare Mountain</i>  <a href="http://kids.nypl.org/reading/recommended2.cfm?ListID=60#20">http://kids.nypl.org/reading/recommended2.cfm?ListID=60#20</a>
<b>Interest Level:</b>	<b>Grades 3-6</b>
<b>Reading Level:</b>	<b>5.9</b>
<b>Read-Aloud passages:</b>	Chapter 10, page 112: "We went deeper into the trees. I felt as if I were having a nightmare-the kind..." (Kyle's thoughts while running through the woods to escape the tsunami waves)  Chapter 10, page 118: "The woods we had walked through now looked as if loggers had chopped down trees at random..." (Kyle's description of the woods in the aftermath of the tsunami)
<b>Setting:</b>	On the Oregon Coast bordering the Pacific Ocean at the Totem Pole Inn that was built in 1928. The book is set in modern times.
<b>Point of View</b>	Third Person Narrator
<b>Theme:</b>	<i>Escaping the Giant Wave</i> is about battling the forces of nature during a tsunami. The title focuses on the most critical aspect of the climax and disaster...escaping the giant tsunami wave. This book focuses on issues of survival, decision-making and fear, bullying, sibling rivalry, and peer pressure.