

READING ACTIVITY

Read the article below and answer the questions

A world without clean water

Hollywood actor, Matt Damon is world famous for his box-office hits such as the *Bourne* films but he is also a well-known humanitarian. Back in 2009, he co-founded *Water.org*, a non-profit organisation that provides the developing world with access to safe water and sanitation. Its aim still remains the same: to assist the 2.6 billion people worldwide that lack clean sanitation and the 1 in 9 people who lack access to safe water, many of whom live in rural areas. To put it into perspective, that's the same as two and a half times the population of the USA.

As Matt explains, 'Over 4,000 children in the developing world die from water-related diseases every day. After visiting project sites in Africa and Asia, I've seen the problem and the impact of safe water and in this day and age it's totally unnecessary that people die from a lack of clean water.'

Twenty-one-year-old Moina is one of the many thousands of people that *Water.org* has been helping over the years. Working as a housemaid, she lives in Board Guard slum in Dhaka, Bangladesh, with her husband and eight-month-old daughter, along with four million other people. Her husband is a rickshaw puller. As the slum has no access to safe water, Moina has to get her family's drinking water from a public source about a mile away. They have to pay \$1.45 a month to use it. It's not unusual for the water to run out before everyone in the queue has been able to fill their pots. She collects water twice a day and each trip takes her from one to two hours.

Moina uses a nearby pond for all other daily water needs, like bathing and washing clothes. The pond is contaminated by human and animal waste, as well as pollution. There are no sanitary toilets in Board Guard, only 'hanging latrines', which are basically sheets of cloth hung on bamboo poles for privacy.

Moina and her family have suffered from water-related illnesses, such as diarrhoea and jaundice, as well as various skin diseases. She is a young woman with tremendous energy and spirit, and is now working with other Board Guard residents who have formed a community-based organisation and applied for a small loan through *Water.org* to build a well and latrine. Moina's dream is to have access to clean water right by her home.

Read the article again. Are the statements true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 *Water.org* has existed since 2009. **T/F**
- 2 1 in 9 people in developing countries live in rural areas. **T/F**
- 3 Nearly four thousand children die from diseases relating to contaminated water every day. **T/F**
- 4 Matt sees no reason why people in developed countries should die due to a lack of safe water. **T/F**
- 5 Safe water can be found a mile away from Moina's home. **T/F**
- 6 There's usually enough water available for everyone at the nearest public source. **T/F**
- 7 Three hours of Moina's day is spent collecting water. **T/F**
- 8 Moina uses a pond to do her family's laundry. **T/F**
- 9 Bamboo huts are used as toilets in Board Guard. **T/F**
- 10 All of Moina's family have suffered health issues resulting from the poor water conditions. **T/F**
- 11 Moina's wish is to have clean water close at hand for her and her family. **T/F**

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2. After working with the comprehension of this Reading activity, write down all the words you do not know. Prepare your own glossary.

For example:

To assist: Ajudar, donar suport