

The Ruins of Pompeii

To/day ma/ny peo/ple

who live in large me/tro/po/li/tan a/re/as

such as Pa/ris and New York

leave the ci/ty in the sum/mer.

They go to the moun/tains

or to the sea/shore

to e/scape the ci/ty noise and heat.

Over 2,000 years a/go, (two thou/sand)

ma/ny rich Ro/mans did the same thing.

They left the ci/ty of Rome in the sum/mer.

Ma/ny of these weal/thy Ro/mans

spent their sum/mers

in the ci/ty of Pom/peii.

Pom/peii was a beau/ti/ful ci/ty;

it was lo/ca/ted on the o/cean,

on the Bay of Na/ples.

In the year 79 C.E., (se/ven/ty-nine)

a young Ro/man boy

who la/ter be/came

a ve/ry fa/mous Ro/man his/to/ri/an

was vi/si/ting his un/cle in Pom/peii.

The boy's name was Pli/ny the Youn/ger.

One day Pli/ny was look/ing up at the sky.

He saw a frigh/te/ning sight.

It was a ve/ry large dark cloud.

This black cloud rose high in/to the sky.

Rock and ash flew through the air.

What **Pli**/ny saw was the e/**rup**/tion

—the ex/**plo**/sion—

of the vol/**ca**/no, Ve/**su**/vi/us.

The **ci**/ty of Pom/**peii**

was at the foot of Mt. Ve/**su**/vi/us.

When the vol/**ca**/no first e/**rup**/ted,

ma/ny **peo**/ple were **a**/ble to flee the **ci**/ty

and to e/**scape** death.

In fact, 18,000 people (eigh/**teen thou**/sand)

e/**scaped** the **ter**/ri/ble di/**sa**/ster.

Un/**for**/tu/nate/ly,

there was not e/**nough** time

for e/**ver**/y/one to e/**scape**.

More than 2,000 **peo**/ple died. (two **thou**/sand)

These **un**/luc/ky **peo**/ple

were **bu**/ried a/**live**

un/der the vol/**ca**/nic ash.

The e/**rup**/tion **las**/ted

for a/**bout** three days.

When the e/**rup**/tion was **o**/ver,

Pom/**peii** was **bu**/ried

un/der 20 feet (**twen**/ty)

of vol/**ca**/nic rock and ash.

The **ci**/ty of Pom/**peii**

was **bu**/ried and for/**got**/ten

for 1,700 years. (se/**ven/teen hun**/dred)

In the year 1748, (se/**ven/teen for**/ty-eight)

an I/**ta**/li/an **far**/mer

was **dig**/ging on his farm.

As he was dig/ging,

he un/co/vered a part of a wall

of the an/cient ci/ty of Pom/peii.

Soon ar/chae/o/lo/gists be/gan to ex/ca/vate

—to dig—

in the a/re/a.

As time went by,

much of the an/cient ci/ty of Pom/peii

was un/co/vered.

To/day tour/ists from all o/ver the world

come to see the ru/ins

of the fa/mous ci/ty of Pom/peii.