

Day 4 Thursday 30.4.2020 – Inference skills



'Is that the home of Mr Folarin Solaja who writes for *Speak*?'

The man's voice was soft but perfectly clear.

'Yes.'

'Don't trouble him. Just give him a message. Tell him: if we get the family first, what does it matter?'

The voice wrung the breath out of her, like a snake secretly squeezing her throat. Frantically she signalled to Uncle Tunde, who had come to the study door. He strode across to Papa's desk, but as he reached for the receiver, there was a click. Sade struggled to repeat the horrible words. Her uncle's thick greying eyebrows lurched up over his gold-rimmed spectacles. He looked very grave.

A little later, Joseph unlocked the gates for a sleek white ambulance. The small crowd of mourners stood aside to make a pathway for the two men with a stretcher. Mama Buki led the hymn-singing. Barely two minutes later, pressed between Mama Buki's heaving, swaying body and her father who was silent and almost perfectly still, Sade watched them carry Mama away under a blinding-white sheet. The ambulance door clicked shut. The windows were darkened glass and Sade could no longer even see the sheet. Everyone fell quiet. The only sound was of the ambulance's motor and of Joseph grappling once again with the gates. His old body pulled to attention as the vehicle backed out, as if in a final salute. That was all. Mama was gone.

Go back to Monday's text

1. From the title, you can predict that the text will be about ...?
2. What do you think "who writes for *Speak*?" Is referring to?
3. What does the author mean by these words?: "**The voice wrung the breath out of her**"
4. What might be another word for receiver in the text?
5. How might Sade be feeling as she tried to repeat the message to her Uncle?
6. Who might Joseph be?
7. Give two possible reasons why the mourners were outside?
8. Describe what thoughts might have been going through Joseph's mind as the vehicle backed out?