

Recitation D

Rescue in Chile

The story begins on August 5, 2010, in Chile. Thirty-three miners go to work. They go down a shaft deep into the ground. They start digging for minerals. At first, it's a regular day. Then, in seconds, everything changes. Part of the mine falls in. The men cannot get out.

The miners are in a small, dark place. It's 2,200 feet under the ground. It's only 540 square feet. They only have a little food. They are afraid. How long will the food last? Will they have enough oxygen?

Above the mine, engineers begin to work. They look at a diagram of the mine. Then they start to drill holes. They drill for days, but they find nothing. Maybe the miners are dead. Then after 17 days, they hear a sound. Tap. Tap. Tap. Someone is tapping on the drill! When they pull the drill out, it has a note on it. It says, "We are fine. There are 33 of us. We are all alive."

Everyone is very happy, but there is bad news, too. The rescue will take months. How can 33 men live in such a small place for so long? Many countries want to help. They send many rescue tools. They also send small electronic devices. The miners can use these devices to talk to their families. They can also watch videos. They watch a soccer game. The player's shirts say "Miners be strong!"

Many engineers work on the rescue. A special drill makes a new shaft. A rescue pod will go down the shaft to bring each miner up. The pod is only 21 inches wide. Finally, the shaft is complete. On October 12, after 68 days, the first miner comes up to the surface. All over the world, people watch. Everyone cheers! Twenty-two hours later, the last miner finally gets to the top! All 33 men survive.

(313 words)