Tuesday, 18 August 1992

Dear Mimmy,

Mummy is carrying home the water. It’s hard on her, but she has to do it. The water hasn’t come back on. Nor has the electricity.

I didn’t tell you, Mimmy, but I’ve forgotten what it’s like to have water pouring out of a tap, what it’s like to shower. We use a jug now. The jug has replaced the shower. We wash dishes and clothes like in the Middle Ages. This war is taking us back to olden times. And we take it, we suffer it, but we don’t know for how long.

Zlata

Saturday, 29 August 1992

Dear Mimmy,

I’m feeling good today. There’s no shooting, I go to summer school, play with Maja, Bojana, and Nedo. We fool around, we have our own kind of humour. Sometimes we laugh so much we even forget about the war. We simply get carried away and it’s peace time again. But only until something bursts or explodes. Then we come back to reality. Sometimes I think that if it weren’t for them I don’t know how I’d be able to stand it. Thank you Maja, Bojana, and Nedo, for making it easier for me to take everything that’s happening, for killing my boredom and my thoughts about all these ugly things.

Remember them, Mimmy, don’t ever forget them. I certainly won’t.

Your Zlata

Sunday, 20 September 1992

Dear Mimmy,

YIPPEE! I crossed the bridge today. Finally I got to go out too! I can hardly believe it. The bridge hasn’t changed. But it’s sad, sad because of the post office, which looks even sadder. It’s in the same place, but it’s not the same old post office. The fire has left its mark. It stands there like a witness to brutal destruction.

The streets aren’t the same, not many people are out, they’re worried, sad, everybody rushing around with bowed heads. All the shop windows have been broken and looted. My school was hit by a shell and its top floor destroyed. The theatre was also hit by some disgusting shells, and it’s wounded. An awful lot of wonderful old Sarajevo buildings have been wounded.

I went to see Grandma and Grandad. Oh, how we hugged and kissed! They cried with joy. They’ve lost weight and aged since I last saw them four months ago. They told me I had grown, that I was now a big girl. That’s nature at work. Children grow, the elderly age. At least those of us who are still alive.

And there are lots and lots of people and children in Sarajevo who are no longer among the living. The war has claimed them. And all of them were innocent. Innocent victims of this disgusting war.

We ran into Marijana’s mother. They didn’t leave. They’re alive and well. She told me that Ivana had gone to Zagreb－with a Jewish convoy.

We also went to see our friend Doda. She, too, was surprised when she saw me. She cried. She says I’ve grown. Slobo (her husband) was wounded, but he’s all right now. There’s no news of Dejan (her son). It makes her sad.

Dear Mimmy, I have something to confess to you. I dressed up. I put on that nice plaid outfit. My shoes were a bit tight, because my feet have grown, but I survived.

So, that was my encounter with the bridge, the post office, Grandma, Grandad, and with a wounded Sarajevo. If only the war would stop, the wounds would heal!

Ciao!

Zlata

EXERCISES 4

1. 19ページから22ページまで読んで，次の問いに答えなさい.
2. ズラータたちは，家の水道の水が出なくなってどうしているか. [p.19]

( )

1. ズラータはサマースクールに行って友だちとどのように過ごしたか. またその友だちについてどう思っているか. [p.20]

( )

1. 郵便局はどうなっているか. [p.21~22]

( )

1. 街路に出ている人はゆっくり歩かないで，どんな風に急いでいると述べているか. [p.21~22]

( )

1. 久しぶりに会った祖父，祖母の様子はどうだったか. [p.21~22]

( )

1. 次の各文を日本語に直しなさい.
2. He had the water running in the bathtub. [p.19]

( )

1. If it weren’t for her help, I would not be able to succeed. [p.20]

( )

1. Thank you very much for inviting me. [p.20]

( )

1. His mind was at work on the new proposal. [p.21~22]

( )

1. I’m really happy I ran into you. [p.21~22]

( )