Read the passage below carefully. Then answer the questions.

The Thirsty Pigeon

Once upon a time, in a <u>bustling</u> city, there lived a pigeon named Pearl. Pearl was a beautiful bird, with feathers that <u>shimmered</u> in various shades of gray. She was known for her graceful flights and melodious cooing. Life had always been kind to Pearl, until one fateful day when she found herself <u>oppressed</u> by <u>excessive</u> thirst. It was a sweltering summer afternoon, and the heat seemed to hang heavy in the air.

Pearl fluttered her wings, <u>desperately</u> seeking a source of water. As she flew over the crowded streets, her eyes caught sight of a signboard depicting a <u>goblet</u> of water. The image was so vividly painted that Pearl <u>mistook</u> it for a real source of <u>hydration</u>. Driven by her <u>unquenchable</u> thirst, Pearl flew towards the signboard with a loud whir.

Unbeknownst to her, it was merely a picture, an illusion that her <u>desperate</u> mind had mistaken for reality. With a great force, Pearl crashed into the solid signboard, jarring herself terribly. The impact was devastating. Pearl felt her wings snap and pain surged through her petite body. She <u>plummeted</u> to the ground, unable to fly or even move.

The once vibrant bird now lay broken and <u>helpless</u>, her wings <u>useless</u>. Thankfully, a kind-hearted bystander witnessed the tragic accident. He rushed to Pearl's aid, carefully cradling her gentle frame in his hands. Seeing her <u>injuries</u>, he knew that Pearl needed immediate attention.

In a world where kindness and <u>compassion</u> may seem <u>scarce</u>, it is heartening to see a <u>random</u> act of <u>selflessness</u>. The <u>bystander's</u> quick thinking and gentle care for Pearl's well-being is a reminder of the goodness that still exists in humanity. Pearl's injuries may have been <u>severe</u>, but thanks to the help of a stranger, she was given a chance at <u>survival</u>. Let us all strive to be like this kind-hearted bystander, and may we never <u>hesitate</u> to lend a helping hand to those in need.