

## Swamp Man (沼男)(1)

- 1) The road leading from the village to the town lies along a marsh. Yumiko and Akie who go to a middle school in the town, are on their way back home to the village. “Although we missed the bus, we’ve made good time, we’re almost home!”
- 2) “Yaaar!” All of a sudden a grotesque man jumps down from the hill beside the road, heading straight for the children. “Oh no! Someone’s after us!” (they scream).
- 3) “Hooowwwl, come, the God of the Swamp is calling!” (says the strange man) as he grabs Akie. Akie tries her best to struggle free.
- 4) The monster surprises Yumiko. (She screams), “Help!” and runs off. She keeps on running as if in a daze, until she bumps into the local village policeman, Mr. Koda. Just then the head of the local youth group...
- 5) Mr. Takayama arrives. (Yumiko sputters), “Oh! Akie was, Akie was...” (Listening intently the policeman asks), “What’s wrong? “Aah... What? A monster jumped down from the hill and grabbed Akie?” “That sounds most serious!”
- 6) Yumiko leads the two to the spot, but neither the strange creature nor Akie are to be seen. “There’s a bag over there” “Look, the grass on the way to the swamp has been trampled flat...,” (the policeman remarks).
- 7) “Ah, Looks like Akie was dragged this way” (The policeman calls out), “Hey, Akie!” “Oh, there is Akie’s scarf and shoes!” (says a shocked Yumiko). The three gradually reach the shore of the swamp. When they arrive they see...

8) “A person!” “It’s Akie!” “Oh no! Mr. Takayama, go quickly, pull Akie out!”  
Akie is half submerged in the swamp.

9) Mr. Takayama and Mr. Koda try to pull her out. By this time Akie’s body has become cold to the touch. And try as they might, they cannot revive her.  
“Akie...” (sobbed Yumiko), clutching the dead body. As soon as she takes Akie in her arms... “Hooowwwl...”

10) “Who’s that!?” “It, it’s the murderer!” (exclaims Mr. Koda). “Hooowwwl, I’m the Swamp Man! Hooowwwl...” (proclaims the murderous swamp creature), as he sits in the tree, laughing at the three standing below.

Well, what do you think will happen next?