

NAME:

COURSE:

The wife of an Israeli astronaut who perished in the Columbia space shuttle disaster today paid tribute to the crew of "angels" who died onboard.

Rona Ramon said she was consoled by the fact her husband Ilan had died chasing his dream and "with people he loved in a place that he loved".

And she spoke of the comfort relatives of the Columbia crew gave each other.

"We are one big family," she said. "What unites us is the knowledge they really enjoyed being there and loved being with each other. They are all angels and will remain that way.

"The children are not saying much. They are trying to get used to the fact that he is no longer here."

Rona revealed her last contact with Ilan was via email moments before the shuttle prepared for landing.

He also sent emails to former US President Bill Clinton and ex-Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres who decided in 1995 to send an Israeli astronaut into space.

Rona choked back tears as she recalled the moment she realised her husband was dead: "Just like at the lift-off, we counted back from 10, but we got to zero and nothing.

"No sign - the shuttle wasn't drawing near, nor did we hear the sonic booms that we knew would be heard before the landing.

"There was an odd, terrible quiet...As the minutes passed we already knew that there was nobody to wait for and nothing to wait for."

QUESTIONS

1. Answer the following questions using your own words. (2 points)

a. According to the text, who is comforting the widow right now?

b. How many e-mails did the astronaut send before the shuttle exploded and who to?

2. Are the following statements *true* or *false*? (1 point)

a. Bill Clinton decided to send an Israeli astronaut into space in the nineties.

b. Bill Clinton sent an e-mail to Shimon Peres in 1995.

3. Find a word or phrase in the text which, in context, is similar in meaning to: (1 point)

STAY:

APPROACHING:

