

Surprise Encounter

Grady slung his backpack over his shoulder and slammed the door of the car shut.

“This is going to be a really long week,” he said to no one in particular. He looked around at the campground. Blue-green fir trees, some as tall as church spires, covered the mountainside. It was nearly 8:30. The sun would be setting soon. Then, Grady thought, maybe the heat wouldn’t feel like a coat. Even up here in the mountains, the hot stickiness of July clung to him.

Grady hated camping, but it was something his family insisted on every summer. His father liked cooking over an open fire, telling stories about how to survive things like bear attacks and swarms of bees. His mother and Jared liked to hike and take pictures of animals. Jared was his seven-year-old brother. He had a collection of bug pictures that he’d taped to the walls in his half of their room. Bugs on leaves, bugs on tree trunks, bugs crawling in dirt. Grady thought they were just plain creepy and considered them proof that Jared was weird.

They set up camp--two tents, one for his parents and one for himself and Jared. While everyone else got busy setting out cooking tools, Grady set off to check out the nearby stream. It was supposed to be deep enough to swim in a few places.

As he neared the stream, something caught his eye. There was an adorable black bear cub—a small creature, no more than two feet tall. It seemed to be playing at the edge of the water. Grady moved closer to get a better look. Then Grady heard a rustling behind him. He remembered that the cub could not be alone. He looked up and saw its mother . . .

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. What does Grady's brother collect?

- A bug pictures
- B baseball cards
- C stuffed animals
- D bearskin rugs

2. Grady goes to a nearby stream and encounters a black bear cub and its mother. What caused Grady to go to the stream?

- A He was trying to find his mother and younger brother.
- B He was checking to see whether he could go for a swim.
- C He wanted to see whether anyone was catching fish there.
- D He hoped that he would spot some frogs and insects.

3. What can you conclude about Grady at the end of the story?

- A He will go closer to the cub.
- B He will have a nice swim.
- C He is safe near the cub.
- D He is in serious danger.

4. Read this sentence from the passage: "Blue-green fir trees, some as tall as church spires, covered the mountainside."

In this sentence, the word **spires** means

- A amazing sights
- B pointed roofs
- C building floors
- D hard surfaces

5. The main purpose of this passage is to describe

- A what Grady likes to do in his spare time
- B what happens when Grady goes camping
- C why Grady's father likes cooking over an open fire
- D how camping is a fun activity for families to do together

6. How old is Grady's brother Jared?

7. What is the author trying to convey to the reader by stating, "The sun would be setting soon. Then, Grady thought, maybe the heat wouldn't feel like a coat"?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

_____ his family was busy at the campsite, Grady went to check out a nearby stream.

- A During
- B While
- C Therefore
- D First

9. Read the following sentence.

Near the stream, Grady moved closer to get a better look at an adorable black cub.

Answer the questions below based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

1. Who is the main subject of the sentence? Grady

2. What did Grady do? _____

3. Why? _____

4. Where? _____

10. Vocabulary Word: clung: stuck tightly to.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 740

Featured Text Structure: Cause/Effect – the writer presents the reason an event happened and its results

Passage Summary: “Surprise Encounter” is the story of a boy who goes on a camping trip with his family and encounters a black bear cub and its mother.

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- B** baseball cards
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- D** bearskin rugs

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5. The main purpose of this passage is to describe

- A** what Grady likes to do in his spare time
- B what happens when Grady goes camping**
- C** why Grady’s father likes cooking over an open fire
- D** how camping is a fun activity for families to do together

6. How old is Grady's brother Jared?

Suggested answer: Jared is seven years old. [paragraph 2]

7. What is the author trying to convey to the reader by stating, "The sun would be setting soon. Then, Grady thought, maybe the heat wouldn't feel like a coat"?

Suggested answer: The author is trying to show how hot it was outside – so hot that Grady felt like he was wearing a coat. [paragraph 2]

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

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- B While**
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9. Read the following sentence.

Near the stream, Grady moved closer to get a better look at an adorable black cub.

Answer the questions below based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

1. Who is the main subject of the sentence? Grady
2. What did Grady do? **moved closer**
3. Why? **to get a better look at an adorable black cub**
4. Where? **near the stream**

10. Vocabulary Word: clung: stuck tightly to.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.