

Selma's strange discovery

Last year Selma won an important competition, Young Scientist of the Year! Before she knew it, she was invited to join an exciting expedition in the Amazon jungle. The scientists wanted to find an ancient temple, lost in the jungle for over 1,000 years.



The scientists flew to the base camp, deep in the jungle, in a tiny plane. When they landed, Selma stared in wonder in the beautiful, lush, green rainforest. But she didn't have time to stand and stare: Dr Dax, the big boss, wanted to start immediately... 'OK everyone, let's find the temple! Go that way! Selma! Then meet back at camp at six o'clock!'

Selma pushed into the jungle with determination. The jungle got thicker and deeper with big branches. It was hot and humid, there were lots of buzzing insects and the air was full of sounds. Monkeys screeched and jumped above her head, swinging through the branches.

She sniffed the warm, scented air... Then suddenly another smell made her jump. 'Petrol? Can I smell... petrol?' she whispered to herself. She looked ahead and saw the top of something small and round. 'Is that... a car?'

2 Match the definitions to the underlined words in the story.

- | | |
|--|---|
| a to move forcefully <u>push</u> | e to move backwards and forwards easily _____ |
| b to look for a long time _____ | f to make a loud high sound _____ |
| c to smell with your nose _____ | g a continuous low sound _____ |
| d to arrive on the ground from the air _____ | |

3 Read the next part of Lucia's story and answer the questions.

- a Underline the sentences that set the scene in this part of the story.
- b What dilemma was Selma faced with?

- c Why does Lucia write some short sentences? What is the effect on the reader?

The car was hiding in the branches and leaves of a large tree. Its windows were dirty and it didn't have any tyres. Selma moved carefully towards the strange little car. She felt a little nervous but told herself not to be silly – it was only an empty old car! But wait! What was that sound? Knock! Knock! Knock! Selma's heart beat fast! Something ... or someone ... was inside the car! She stopped. She didn't know what to do ... Then she took a deep breath and shouted ...

¹ Hello Is anyone there

² Let me out Help A voice shouted back

³ Who are you Selma shouted back

⁴ What are you doing here



4 Read the writing tip and punctuate the underlined sentences 1–4 in the story.

Challenge



- 5 What do you think happened next? Plan the next part of the story and write it in your notebook or on the computer.

Remember to:

- use long and short sentences (see Activity 3).
- add some dialogue.

Writing tip

Punctuation for dialogue

'Look Jack! What's that?'
I said.

'Look, Jack,' I said. 'It's here.
It's sniffing the air!'