

The Terror of the Blue John Gap

by Sir Arthur Doyle

- 1 It was like an enormous, unclipped sheep in its fleece, but in size it was far larger than the largest elephant, and its breadth seems to be nearly as great as its height. It fills me with amazement now to think that I should have dared to follow such a horror into the ¹**bowels** of the Earth.
- 2 The passage down which I was racing opened into a great central cave. Into this, I rushed, fearful ²**lest** I should lose all trace of the beast. But he had turned upon his own ³**traces**, and in a moment, we were face to face.
- 3 That picture, seen in the brilliant white light of the lantern, is ⁴**etched** forever upon my brain. He had reared up on his hind legs as a bear would do, and stood above me, enormous, menacing - such a creature as no nightmare had ever brought to my imagination. I have said that he reared like a bear, and there was something bear-like if one could ⁵**conceive** a bear which was ten-fold the bulk of any bear seen upon Earth - in its whole ⁶**pose** and attitude, in his great crooked forelegs with their ivory white claws, in his rugged skin, and in his red, gaping mouth, fringed with monstrous fangs.
- 4 Only in one point did he differ from the bear, or from any other creature which walks the earth, and even that ⁷**supreme** moment, a shudder of horror passed over me as I observed that the eyes which glistened in the glow of my lantern were huge, ⁸**projecting** bulbs white and sightless. For moment, his great paws swung over my head. The next he fell forward upon me, I and my broken lantern crashed to the earth, and I remember no more.

¹ Insides

² Wanting to prevent something

³ Footprints

⁴ Cut out

⁵ Think of, imagine

⁶ Way of standing

⁷ Extreme, important

⁸ Sticking out



Questions

1. Is the writer using a simile in the first paragraph to describe the size of the beast?
2. Find an example for each of the following language techniques and write how they imply that the beast is dangerous:
 - A. Adjective
 - B. Listing
 - C. Metaphor
 - D. Simile
 - E. Repetition
3. Write two paragraphs explaining how the writer makes the animal seem scary and how the narrator's responses. Use quotations from the text to support your statements.

Select: [Check my answers](#)