4 Lara and the mountain lion



Lara is my mother's best friend. She's a vet, that's a doctor who looks after sick animals. I want to be a vet too. One day I asked her, 'Why did you decide to be a vet, Lara?'

'It's a strange story,' she answered. 'When I was your age, I had no brothers or sisters to play with, so in the winter holidays I stayed with my three cousins who lived high up in the mountains. They were tall and strong and could ski very fast. They were very good at climbing too. But I couldn't ski or climb. My legs weren't strong enough! I was often ill too, so I had to carry different medicines with me all the time.

'One day, my cousins wanted to climb the mountain that was behind their house. They said, "You must come with us, Lara!" They were unkind. They knew I wasn't well enough or brave enough.

'I walked a little way, but I was soon tired, so I had to stop and sit down. My cousins laughed at my red face. "See you later, then!" they called and went on up the mountain without me.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

'I started to feel better after a few minutes, but then I heard an animal behind me. I felt a big, warm, furry, soft face on my shoulder. It was a mountain lion.'

'Wow!' I said.

'I was very afraid,' Lara said, 'but I couldn't run away because my legs still felt weak, so I just sat there. The lion opened its mouth—'

'Oh no!' I said.

'—and said, "I've got a terrible toothache." Well, I knew all about toothache because I often had that, so I gave it some medicine that was in my jacket pocket,' Lara said.

I laughed and said, 'I don't believe you, Lara!'

'Why not?' she asked. 'Strange things happen in the world all the time!'



'The lion and I sat and talked about cakes and snakes and other things and after a few minutes, it said, "My tooth's feeling much better now, but I've got a very bad stomach-ache. I ate too much food after I woke up this morning."

'I often had stomach-ache, so I had a bottle of stomach-ache medicine in my rucksack. I put some on a little plastic spoon and gave it to the lion and then we sat and talked about parks and sharks and other things.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

'After a few minutes, the lion said, "My stomach's feeling much better now, but I've got a horrible headache. I lay in the sun for hours yesterday."

'I knew about headaches, so I took a clean handkerchief from my jacket pocket and put it in the snow before I put it on the lion's furry head. "That's very cold but it feels good!" the lion said.

'Then we sat and talked about tails and whales and other things. But suddenly, the lion jumped up and said, "I'm feeling grrrrreat now! What shall we do next?"



'I pointed at the mountain. My cousins were already high up above us. "Can you take me up to the top?" I asked.

'"Sure!" it said. "You can ride on my back. No problem!" So I jumped on its back and put both arms round its neck.

'The lion ran faster than the wind. It's really wonderful to ride on a lion's back. Have you ever done that?' Lara asked me.

'No!' I said and laughed.

'Well, you must try it one day. But we have to finish the story ...

LIVEWORKSHEETS

'When the mountain lion and I arrived at the top, I got off its back, and it disappeared into a dark cave. Soon after that, my cousins arrived. They were very surprised when they saw me.'

'What happened next?' I asked.

'Well,' said Lara, 'they never laughed at me again! And every year, I went back to the place where I met the lion and it came to talk to me again. Sometimes I took it more medicine and I often rode on its back in the snow. We became great friends and I knew that I wanted to be a vet one day. So that's the answer to your question.'



Lara waited for a minute and then laughed.

'I'm sorry,' she said. 'It's just a story.'

But then she turned round and looked at a photo on her desk. It was of a little girl and a mountain lion. They were sitting on a rock in the snow and the lion had its big, soft, furry face on her shoulder.

Lara turned back and smiled at me. 'Now I must work,' she said. 'Would you like some more orange juice before you go?'

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 Lara and the mountain lion

A New words for you!

Draw lines between your new words and their meanings.

unkind	ill
furry	lovely
sick	has lots of fur
wonderful	not kind

B Who or what said this?

Write A, B or C.

A  B  C 

Example:
Why did you decide to be a vet? C

1 I couldn't ski or climb. .....

2 I've got a terrible toothache. .....

3 I ate too much food. .....

4 Can you take me up to the top? .....

5 What happened next? .....

6 It's just a story. .....

C What happened next?

Put the sentences in the right order. Write 2–8 in the boxes.

Lara rode on the lion's back. ☐

A lion came and talked to Lara. ☐

Lara felt tired on the mountain. ☐

Lara started to tell the boy a story. ☐

The lion had some of Lara's medicine. ☐

Lara and her cousins began to climb a mountain. ☐

Lara went to see her cousins. ☐

The boy visited Lara's office. 1

Lara decided to be a vet. 9

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D Lara's office

Look at the picture. Write *yes* or *no*.

Example:

There's a balcony outside the door of Lara's office.
yes



1 One of the photos on the wall has a monkey in it. .....
2 Lara has ridden a camel in a hot country. .....
3 Lara's kitten has a tail which is grey and white. .....
4 The boy is holding a drink in his left hand. .....
5 Lara is writing something on one of the pieces of paper. .....
6 You can see grey squares on the floor of the office. .....

E So

Draw lines to join the two halves of each sentence.

Example:

Lara had no brothers or sisters, so she often had to take medicine.

1 Lara's cousins lived in the mountains, so she had to stop and sit down.
2 Lara had weak legs, so her cousins went on without her.
3 Lara was often ill, so she wasn't good at climbing or skiing.
4 Lara got tired quickly on the walk, so she stayed with her cousins in the holidays.
5 Lara couldn't go on up the mountain, so they were very good at skiing.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

F Lara's medicine

Complete the sentences. Write 1, 2 or 3 words.



Example: The toothache medicine was in Lara's ...jacket pocket... .

1 The lion's tooth felt ..... after a few minutes.
2 The lion's ..... hurt because it had too much food.
3 Lara put the lion's stomach-ache medicine on a ..... .
4 The lion sat in the sun for hours, so it had a horrible ..... .
5 Lara put a handkerchief that was ..... on the lion's head.

G Was it before or after this?

Cross out the wrong word in each sentence. Write one more sentence.

Example: The lion felt ill before/~~after~~ it saw Lara.

1 The lion came to Lara before/after her cousins went on without her.
2 Lara felt tired before/after she sat down.
3 The lion felt much better before/after Lara gave it some medicine.
4 The lion had a headache before/after it sat in the sun.
5 ..... before/after ..... .

H What's the matter, Lara?

What do Lara and the lion say? Match the sentences.

I can't pick my rucksack up because my shoulder hurts.

My feet are cold!

I'm hungry!

I cut my hand when I jumped off that rock.

Can you help me? I'm too tired to walk.

A Oh no! I'll help you clean it.
B No problem! I can get it for you.
C Me too! I'll find some fruit.
D Sure! You can ride on my back!
E Oh dear! Sit nearer the fire.



LIVEWORKSHEETS