

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

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 hoped that he would spot some frogs and insects.
- 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 was trying to find his mother and younger brother.

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

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

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

5. The main purpose of this passage is to describe
- A. how camping is a fun activity for families to do together
 - B. what happens when Grady goes camping
 - C. what Grady likes to do in his spare time
 - D. why Grady's father likes cooking over an open fire

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

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. An action that leads to the problem in the story is

- A. Grady slams the car door shut.
- B. Jared likes to hike and take pictures.
- C. Grady sees an adorable black bear cub.
- D. Grady thinks that bugs are creepy.

2. What is the main problem in the story?

- A. Jared likes bugs but Grady does not.
- B. The mountain air was hot and sticky.
- C. Grady encounters a mother bear that will want to protect her cub.
- D. Grady does not like to go camping.

3. A hint of a possible solution to the problem is given by the quote:

- A. "While everyone else got busy setting out cooking tools, Grady set off to check out the nearby stream."
- B. "They set up camp-two tents, one for his parents and one for himself and Jared."
- C. "His father liked cooking over an open fire, telling stories about how to survive things like bear attacks and swarms of bees."
- D. "[Jared] had a collection of bug pictures that he'd taped to the walls in his half of their room."

4. We know the story begins at dusk because

- A. the fir trees were blue-green.
- B. the sun would be setting soon.
- C. the family is preparing to cook.
- D. the author tells the time.

5. Finish the story with an outcome in which Grady is not harmed by the adult bear.
