

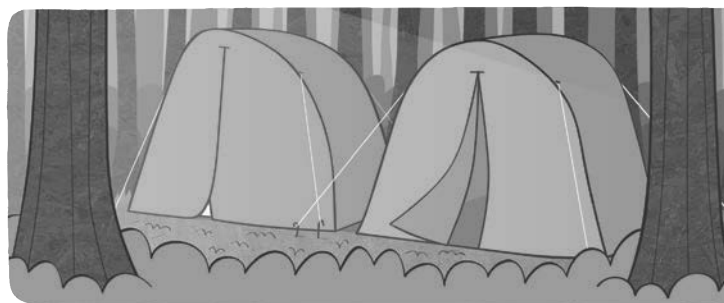
Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

The Night of the Bear

My name is Maddy. I live in Canada and I am eight years old.

This year, my dad said I was old enough to go with him on his annual summer camping trip in the mountains. Before, he had always said I was too young, but this summer he said that my friend Ben was coming with his dad too. I was so excited.



1 Which two things do you know about Maddy? Tick **two** boxes.

She lives in Canada.

☐

Maddy and Ben are both eight years old.

☐

She lives in a tent.

☐

Maddy and Ben are friends.

☐

2 Why do you think Maddy's dad thinks she's old enough to go camping this year?

3 *I was old enough to go with him on his annual summer camping trip ...* What does the word 'annual' mean in this sentence? Tick **one** box.

Every week

☐

Every day

☐

Every year

☐

Every month

☐

The first night, after we put up the tents, Dad hung his backpack from a high branch of a tree.

As the four of us were sitting round the campfire and toasting marshmallows, I asked Dad why he put his backpack so high up.

“All of our food is in the backpack,” Dad replied. “I’ve put it up high so that a bear can’t reach it.”



“A bear?” asked Ben fearfully. “Are there really bears around here?”

“Yes,” said my dad. “The woods are the bears’ home, but we don’t want them coming to our camp and taking our food. Did you know that a bear can smell food from up to 2 kilometres away?”

In the middle of the night, I suddenly remembered that I had left the bag of marshmallows on the ground beside the fire. I lay awake thinking whether the bears would come and eat them. I wanted to go out and get the marshmallows but I was too scared.

It was pitch black in the tent I was sharing with Dad. It was as dark as a deep cave. I could hear his soft, sleepy breathing. I lay and listened to him and to the sound of the leaves rustling and the twigs crackling outside. All I could think about was those bears, getting closer.

Suddenly, I sat up. There was this terrible growling noise right outside our tent. I didn’t know what to do. Eventually, I reached over and shook Dad awake. “Dad, wake up!” I hissed. “There’s a bear in the camp. It’s come for the marshmallows.”

At first, Dad looked scared too. Then, he burst out laughing. “You mean that horrible noise out there?” he chuckled. “That’s not a bear. That’s Ben’s dad, snoring!”

- 4 Look at the sentence beginning: *As the four of us were sitting round the campfire ...*

List the four people who were around the campfire.

- 5 Number these events to show the order in which they happened.

They toasted marshmallows.

They put up their tents.

Dad hung up his backpack.

- 6 Why did Ben ask whether there were really bears around here?

- 7 Draw lines to match the things with the types of sounds they made.

Dad's breathing •

• Crackling

Leaves •

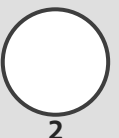
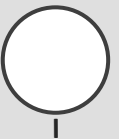
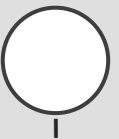
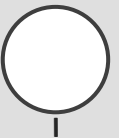
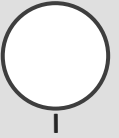
• Soft

Twigs •

• Rustling

- 8 Underline all the words that tell you how dark it was in the tent.

It was pitch black in the tent I was sharing with Dad. It was as dark as a deep cave.



2

9

Do you think a bear had come to eat the marshmallows?

Tick **one** box.

Yes

☐

No

☐

Explain your answer.

10

Put ticks in the table to show which sentences are **true** and which are **false**. One has been done for you.

	True	False
The camping trip was in the summer.		
They baked potatoes in the fire.		✓
They put up their tent in the woods.		
Maddy's dad put the food in a box to keep the bears away.		
A bear came to the campsite in the night.		

For teacher use

Your mark	_____ out of 12
What went well	
How to improve	

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