

Write about a frightening encounter with an animal. (Year 9 writer)

I stepped toward the cave door quietly gun out ready for anything, I got there nothing was moving not even the tops of the highest trees and it was getting dark so I camped in the cave. I heard howls of wolf, the cantering of wild horses and the loud snorts of wild boars. There was the sudden shot of a shot gun and a shout,

"Did you hit it?"

"I'm not sure the furry thing ran into the forest."

"Come on , it's cold, let's go."

I was still standing by a tree and it went silent again. I was awake for the rest of the night listening. It was still dark in the forest and it was about 2.15am when a loud raw and the sound of a wild bore being slaughtered. I closed my eyes and listened then opened them and moved toward the sound.

I ran to the camp and the noise died down and stopped. I went further into the cave and made a fire as it was getting cold.

I had fallen asleep and was woken by something brushing past me it was a man in the doorway I could just see the outline. He looked really hairy and I reached for my gun, the bear looking man ran toward me grabbed one of my legs and picked me off the floor by it.

I was really scared I almost cried but I had to keep calm, then O remembered those men who shot at something furry.

The beast whaled and dropped me I was still conscious I backed away toward the door, I had to do something I was scared so much I could not go for my gun I stood frozen in the shadows as he came toward me again and he roared in my ear and I made a dash for it.

I still roam the forest where 'I saw the beast but I have not seen him, The sounds have been heard of animals being slaughtered, the animals bones are found but not the beast he is a mystery in the forest one minute and out the next.

I still meet other animals that are frightening but not as bad as the beast.

An interpretative response based on an aesthetic stance to the story

Key Considerations for an interpretative commentary:

- *The creation of a sense of mystery and suspense*
- *The creation of an appropriate visual landscape*
- *The narrator's feelings of fear and loneliness*

Apart from the last paragraph, the entire action takes place during the course of a single night. Everything is dark and shadowy both outside in the forest and inside in the deeper darkness of the cave. The man who is camping in the cave hears shots and a distant dialogue in the early part of the night. But the hunters move off and the silence returns, accentuating the loneliness and the vulnerability of the narrator. I wonder who these hunters are and why this man is alone. Does he know the other men? Is he an outcast or has he chosen to hunt alone.

I am now alerted to the fact that a 'furry thing' which has 'run into the forest' may have been wounded. Knowing that the story is to be about 'A frightening encounter' I predict that this beast will appear at the mouth of the cave. But before that event occurs, the suspense is heightened as the man hears 'a loud raw and the sound of a wild bore being slaughtered'.

The man shrinks further into the cave and falls into an uneasy sleep only to wake to see the outline of a 'bear looking man' (or a man looking bear?) dimly outlined in the doorway. Thus the climax of the tale is reached, he is viciously attacked but manages to 'make a dash for it' and escape.

The concluding paragraph moves from the immediacy of the event into a more extended present and is almost poetic in tone: 'I still roam the forest where I last saw the beast...'. But the beast has never been captured and thus remains an intriguing mystery.

Taken from: *Two contrasting paradigms for teaching and assessing writing*
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