

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

The Bear



Long, long ago, there was a great bear. His home was a dark cave from which he could look out across the forest. The land gave him roots, the trees gave him fruit and the river gave him fish, but although he had all he needed, there was something missing. He was lonely.

1

Look at the sentence beginning: *His home was a dark cave ...*
Which words are closest in meaning to the word 'dark'? Tick **two** boxes.

Gloomy

Remote

Dirty

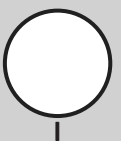
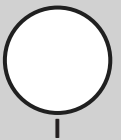
Distant

Murky

Large

2

What was the bear missing?



One morning, the great bear woke up and sniffed. It was time to go to the river. Once a year, thousands of fish swam up the river to lay their eggs. There were so many fish that all he needed to do was stand in the water with his mouth open and wait for fish to jump straight in. He licked his lips, scratched his back against the huge rock at the entrance to his cave, and set off for the river.

Halfway to the river, he came across a man. The great bear was careful around humans, aware that they were the only creatures who might try to hurt him. So he did what he always did when he wanted something to go away. He stood tall on his hind legs, looked down at the man and made the forest shake to the sound of his terrifying roar. The man turned pale and ran away.

Later that day, as he lay on a rock in the midday sun, his belly full of delicious fish, the great bear's peace was disturbed by the sound of shouting. He looked over to the opposite riverbank and saw two women arguing. Without hesitation, the great bear splashed into the river, reared up again and bellowed at the two women. Immediately they stopped shouting and ran.

It was unusual to see three humans in one day. He was not usually afraid but, somehow, as he headed back to his cave that evening, he felt troubled. The feeling turned to rage when he saw the entrance to his cave. Sitting on his rock, at the entrance to his cave, and munching lazily on a handful of his berries, was a small, human child.

The great bear drew himself up to his full, terrifying height and towered over the child. His roar echoed around the cave and across the forest so that creatures near and far ran and hid.

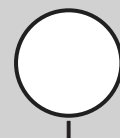
But the human child did not run as the others had done. She looked up at the bear, blinked and offered him some berries.



3

Look at the paragraph beginning: *One morning, the great bear woke up and sniffed.*

Why do you think the author tells us that the bear 'sniffed'?



4

Look at the paragraph beginning: *One morning, the great bear woke up and sniffed.*

Number the following in the order in which they happened.

The bear scratched his back.

The bear licked his lips.

The bear woke up and sniffed the air.

The bear set off for the river.

5

Why did the bear decide it was a good time to go to the river?

Tick **one** box.

It was easy to catch fish.

He liked to eat fish.

A few fish swam up the river to lay their eggs.

It was early in the morning.

6

Look at the paragraph beginning: *Halfway to the river ...*

Which words help us to imagine how loud the bear's roar was?

7

When the bear roars at the man, how can we tell that the man was afraid? Give **two** reasons.

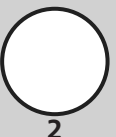
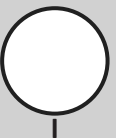
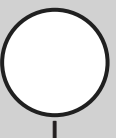
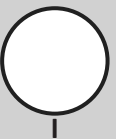
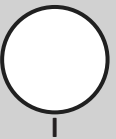
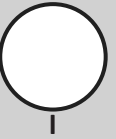
8

Look at the paragraph beginning: *Later that day ...*

How do we know that the bear had caught some fish?

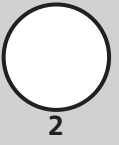
9

How does the author try to make the bear seem very scary to the little girl. Find and copy **two** examples.



10

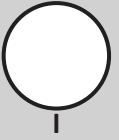
In your own words, write what is surprising about how the little girl behaves when she sees the bear.



11

Look back over the story. What did the bear think about humans? Tick **two** boxes.

- He tried to avoid humans. He wanted to kill humans.
- He wanted to take food from humans. He just wanted humans to go away.



12

Look at the end of the story and remember what the author told us about the bear at the beginning of the story.

a) What do you think might happen next? Tick **one** box.

- The bear will run into his cave. The child will run away.
- The bear will attack the human child. The bear will make friends with the human child.

b) Explain your answer.



For teacher use

Your mark	_____ out of 15
What went well	
How to improve	

