ELA Day 5 - Surprise Encounter

Thursday, August 28, 2025 2:39 PM

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 ...

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Vocabulary

insist

verb

definition: to be firm about something; refuse to give up.
He insists on being the first one in the lunch line.
Spanish: insistir, empeñarse
forms: insisted, insisting, insists

rustle

verb

definition: to make soft, hissing sounds like things rubbing together.
Her skirt rustled when she walked.
Spanish: susurrar, crujir
forms: rustled, rustles, rustling

survive

verb

definition: to live or continue beyond or in spite of.
The pioneers survived a terrible winter on the prairie that year.
They were lucky to survive the crash.
Spanish: sobrevivir
forms: survived, survives, surviving

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1. Before you start reading...

Here are the vocabulary words that will be in this reading. Let's see how well you already know them.

Check the box that shows how well you know each word. It's ok if you don't know them yet (this is not graded)!

	Don't know it	Have heard of it but not sure of its meaning	Know something about its meaning	Know it well
insist				
rustle				
survive				

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2. Word Changer

Words have different forms when we use them in different ways. Write the correct vocabulary word, in its correct form, in each blank.

He _____ on being the first one in the lunch line.

Her skirt _____ when she walked.

The pioneers _____ a terrible winter on the prairie that year.

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3. After reading and exploring the words through some activities...

Do you know these words better? Check the box that shows how well you know each word. It's ok if you don't know them yet (this is not graded)!

	Don't know it	Have heard of it but not sure of its meaning	Know something about its meaning	Know it well
insist				
rustle				
survive				

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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. Read the following sentences from the text.

"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."

What conclusion can you draw from this evidence about why Grady calls Jared weird?

A. Jared spends his free time reading books and learning about bears.

B. Jared does not enjoy the family camping trip and Grady looks forward to it all year.

C. Jared is interested in outdoor actvities that Grady does not enjoy.

D. Jared is afraid to swim in the nearby stream beacause he is worried about the fish in it.

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4. Read the following sentences from the text.

"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..."

Mother bears are very protective of their cubs. 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.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

A. Grady is on a camping trip with his family and is able to have a unique experience swimming with two bears.

B. Grady is unhappy about being on a camping trip with his family when he encounters a bear and its mother.

C. Jared is a seven-year-old who loves to collect pictures of bugs and tape them on his side of the room.

D. July isn't a good month to go on a family camping trip because the weather makes everything hot and sticky.

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6. Read the following sentences from the text.

"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."

As used in this excerpt, what does the word "**insisted**" most closely mean?

A. put off and questioned going

B. took a long time packing

C. strongly said it should happen

D. could not stop complaining about

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

_____ his family was busy at the campsite, Grady went to check out a nearby stream.

A. During

B. While

C. Therefore

D. First

8. 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"?

9. How does Grady feel about camping?

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