

Cave Expedition

They quickened their steps and managed to reach the entrance to the caves. Peter was very keen to go inside but John stopped him as it still looked too dark and gloomy. Peter stood impatiently, shifting his weight from one foot to the other, glancing up at the sky from time to time, as if willing the sun to come up faster. They had to be back home before lunchtime, as their mother very sternly specified the time of return. She had read 'Cinderella' to Lucy the night before and the tot was convinced that something would turn into a pumpkin if they didn't get home on time. For the time being, however, she was willing to place her entire trust in her older brothers and enjoy this rare opportunity. Their mother had prepared a scrumptious breakfast but they just wolfed down everything without wasting any more time.

It was now seven a.m. and the sun was beginning to warm up. The clouds had disappeared and the sea looked like a swimming pool, with yellow shadows of the sun playfully glistening across the water. The water looked so inviting, but Peter didn't want to idle away the time before going to the caves. "John, let's go without wasting any more time!" shouted Peter, his voice rising in consternation. The little girl danced along unawares. The caves definitely looked gloomy and wet, but they were not too dark anymore, as the sunlight crept through the crevices of the huge boulders. The boys were super-excited and Lucy too joined in the exhilaration, even though she did not understand the expedition. They walked along in silence for a while till they saw a funny creature which made the little girl cry out. "Come on Lucy, it's only a mother crab - don't be a baby! We should never have brought you along. It's all John's fault. This is a boys' adventure and little girls are a nuisance to take along," Peter retorted, shooting a disapproving look at John, who stared back at Peter with an equally stern look that seemed to have calmed Peter down a little. Lucy held on to John until the crab was out of sight and John made her promise to stay close to him as they wandered further along.

The boys were so caught up in the excitement of exploring, that for a while they forgot about Lucy. About ten minutes later, Peter called out to Lucy to show her the skeleton of a strange creature, which they could not identify, but to his horror, Lucy was nowhere to be seen. The boys ran back the way they came, but could not find the little girl. They were terrified and kept calling louder and louder but there was no sign of her. Peter, clearly upset at this point, was now shouting and blaming himself for being short with Lucy. Panic struck them both, as they ran around like headless chickens, unsure of what to do next. What would they tell their parents if they didn't find her? John turned as white as a ghost as he recalled how he had convinced their mother to let Lucy tag along.

(The actual passage is 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ pages long)

1. Why did the children go to the beach that morning?
 - A. To build sandcastles.
 - B. To chase after seagulls.
 - C. To explore the caves.
 - D. To play with the dog.
 - E. To go for a swim.

2. Which of the following was the main reason why Peter was unhappy that Lucy had joined their expedition?
 - A. Peter and John had the job of looking after Lucy.
 - B. Lucy kept running after seagulls, trying to catch them.
 - C. Lucy kept chirping "good morning" to strangers passing by.
 - D. She kept getting scared of the crabs.
 - E. Peter knew Lucy would wander off as soon as she got a chance.

3. Which of the following is an accurate description of Peter's character?
 - A. He is very optimistic.
 - B. He is always happy and full of enthusiasm.
 - C. He likes looking after Lucy.
 - D. He is cynical and negative.
 - E. He is pessimistic and positive.

4. According to the passage, how did they know that they were close to the caves?
 - A. The seagulls were just overhead.
 - B. The sky was blue-grey and the sun was just coming out.
 - C. They could smell the sea water and hear the waves.
 - D. They were starting to see people on the beach.
 - E. They were starting to see crabs.

5. Why was Peter impatient to go into the cave?
 - A. It was getting dark outside.
 - B. The sea was getting rougher.
 - C. Lucy was hungry.
 - D. Their mother gave them a strict time to come back.
 - E. Lucy had to go home for her bedtime story.

For questions 21 to 28, choose the word that is spelt correctly.

	A	B	C	D	E
21.	adres	address	adresse	addriss	eddress
22.	permanant	permenent	parmanent	permananent	permanent

For questions 34 to 48, choose the correct word to complete the passage.

Family can mean many things to many people and it can be (34) _____ in many ways. In its most basic form, family is where we all come from and where we belong. It is also where our (3 5) _____ comes from. We all belong to a family and it is our family that keeps us (36) _____ through good times and bad.

Question No.	Answer	Notes
1	C	Lines 3-9: 'They were excited as it was the very first time that they had the freedom to walk down and explore the caves that John had been talking about all last summer.'
2	A	Lines 19-21: 'Peter, ever the pessimist, was not too happy because of the responsibility of looking after Lucy...'
3	D	Line 19 describes Peter as 'ever the pessimist', indicating that he is cynical and negative.
4	C	Lines 21-22: 'They could smell the brine and hear the waves splashing against the rocks and John knew they were getting close.'
5	D	Lines 29-30: 'They had to be back home before lunchtime, as their mother very sternly specified the time of return.'