

An Adventure in Africa

by ReadWorks



It was late at night, but Kevin lay awake in bed. He could not sleep because he was very scared. His bed was inside a giant camping tent, and just outside the tent were the fields of Africa, filled with wild animals. Kevin looked at his parents, who slept soundly in another bed across from him. He wondered how they could be so calm. What if a lion came into their tent to attack them? It took a long time before Kevin finally fell asleep.

When the sun came up, he felt his mother's hand on his head. "Good morning, Kevin!" she said. She looked happy and excited. "Time to wake up and go on the safari."

"I'm scared," said Kevin. Before they left America on the airplane, his parents had explained to him that a safari was a long drive through nature, usually in Africa. During a safari you can see lions and zebras living free,

instead of cooped up in a zoo. "What if we get close to a lion?" he asked.

"Oh, darling," she said. "Like I told you, nothing will happen to us if we listen to what our guide says."

Kevin rubbed his eyes and slowly put on his clothes. He listened to the birds singing outside and began to feel less afraid. He walked out of the tent into bright sunlight, and ate his eggs quickly at the table outside. Then he got into a big green jeep with his mother and father. The driver was a kind-looking man with a bushy gray beard. His name was Jim, and he was their guide.

The jeep took off along a dirt road. After a little while Kevin saw something move out of the corner of his eye. "Wait!" he said. "I see something!"

Jim stopped the car and told them all to get out. Kevin and his parents waited in the tall grass while Jim walked ahead of them and looked around. After a minute Jim raised his hands in the air. "Shhh," he whispered. "It's nothing dangerous. If we speak loudly, we'll scare it away!" Kevin and his parents walked up to where Jim stood, and soon Kevin saw an animal come very close to them. It was a beautiful golden creature with dark brown spots and a very, very long neck. It had come to eat the leaves of a tall tree. "The giraffe is the only animal around here tall enough to reach these leaves," whispered Jim. "That's why it always has food to eat."

"Wow," whispered Kevin. He could not believe how close he was to the giraffe. All his fears vanished, and he began to get excited about the day to come.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Where are Kevin and his parents?

- A. in Australia
- B. in Africa
- C. in America

2. What event made Kevin less afraid of being close to wild animals?

- A. Kevin's mom told him that nothing would happen to them if they listen to their guide so Kevin was not afraid.
- B. Jim, the guide, came to pick up Kevin and his parents to take them on the safari.
- C. A giraffe came very close to Kevin while he was on the safari and Kevin was not afraid.

3. Kevin was scared when he was in the giant camping tent late at night in Africa. Which evidence from the story does NOT support this statement?

- A. It took a long time before Kevin could fall asleep.
- B. Kevin's parents slept soundly in another bed across from Kevin.
- C. Kevin thought about a lion coming into their tent to attack them.

4. How did Kevin's parents most likely feel during the trip to Africa?

- A. Kevin's parents were bored during the trip to Africa.
- B. Kevin's parents were afraid during the trip to Africa.
- C. Kevin's parents were not afraid during the trip to Africa.

5. What is the story mostly about?

- A. a boy named Kevin who goes on a safari in Africa with his parents
- B. a boy named Kevin who was excited to see many wild animals close up
- C. a family that went to Africa to see giraffes

6. Read the following sentences: "During a safari you can see lions and zebras living free, instead of **cooped up** in a zoo."

What does the phrase "**cooped up**" most nearly mean?

- A. yelled at
- B. released in the wild
- C. kept in a closed space

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

Kevin saw something move _____ the guide stopped the car.

- A. because
- B. so
- C. but

8. Which animal came to eat the leaves of a tall tree that was near Kevin?

9. Explain how Kevin's feelings about being close to wild animals change from the beginning to the end of the story. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

10. How would Kevin react if he saw a lion up close on the safari? Use evidence from the story to support your answer.
