

The Cave

The sky was being painted by a crisp morning sun that was only just casting a warm glow over the treetops when Tom escaped from his house and set out on his bike. He'd tried to explain to his grandma that he didn't have time for breakfast today, not after what he'd discovered the day before. He knew she worried, though. She had done ever since he'd moved in with her when he was two years old.

It was going to be another scorching day. The air had the heavy, humid feel to it that promised hot, summer sunshine all day and thunderstorms later on. Tom didn't care; the future would take care of itself but, for now, there were new adventures waiting for him in a field on the far side of the village.

Tom had already arranged with Lisa and Ajay to meet him at the edge of Pemberton's Field, and they were there already when he turned the corner and spun in the gravel. Ajay was leaning nonchalantly against the rickety fence. Tom gave him a punch on the shoulder as a way of saying "Hello". Lisa laughed hard until Tom did the same to her. She scowled. Her long hair covered her dark skin in a way that she thought made her look scary, but that Tom reckoned just made her look like she needed a haircut.

Tom knew she didn't mind, really. They'd been friends since he'd moved to his grandma's and were like brother and sister. Like brother and sister, they occasionally fought, but always made up and moved on.

"I've been reading about this place," Lisa said when they'd carefully stowed their bikes under the hawthorn hedge. "There's a whole series of caves in the area, but nobody ever bothered to investigate them. Apparently, there was a river here hundreds of years ago, maybe even more, that cut through the rocks."

Both of the boys agreed that this made it even more exciting, but Lisa, often the more cautious of the group, wasn't so sure. "What if there are bears, or wolves or something in there?" she asked, her voice quivering.

The two boys looked at each other and laughed. "We're in the middle of England," Ajay said. "When was the last time you saw a bear or a wolf wandering around? Come on, let's go and see it."

Summer was in full swing in the fields: butterflies and bees zipped between the nodding heads of cow parsley and poppies blowing in the wind; birds chirped somewhere in the tall trees that bordered the fields; a lazy brook sang its melodious tune in the distance.

It took them longer than it should have to reach the cave; after all, why rush on such a perfect day? Lisa may have been dragging her feet because she was nervous but for Tom and Ajay the feeling of the sun beating down on their necks and of the tall grasses fussing against their shins was something to be savoured.

Finally, they reached the spot that they had discovered the day before. On the edge of one of the fields, there was a tall rock-face that had been carved from the rolling hill behind it. If you looked at it from the right angle, there was a crack, just wide enough for a person to squeeze into. Tall grasses and foxgloves had grown around the entrance, shielding it even further from view.

Something was different today. Tom raced ahead of the others and noticed that the plants had been trampled down around the rock. Instead of the crack, he found a large piece of wood propped up against the stone with the words "Keep Out" hastily brushed over it in white paint.

Somebody else had found the cave.



1

Who had raised Tom from a young age?

1 mark

2

Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
It was a cold day.		
Tom met up with one friend.		
Lisa was nervous.		
They were the only people to find the cave.		

2 marks

3

a) In which season of the year does the story take place?

1 mark

b) Give two reasons that you know this. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

2 marks





4

Read the whole text.

Find and copy one word that shows one of the characters was often unwilling to take risks.

1 mark

5

Look at the paragraph beginning: 'Tom had already arranged...'

Which two words would best describe how Ajay was standing?

Tick **two**.

Relaxed

Excited

Casual

Nervous

2 marks

6

What was Lisa afraid of finding in the cave?

1 mark

SATs Practice - Answers

1. His grandma
2. **Give 1 mark for two correct answers. Give 2 marks for three or more correct answers.**
False
False
True
False
3. a) Summer
b) **Give 1 mark for each correct answer up to a maximum of 2 marks:**
Summer was in full swing
Butterflies and bees were zipping through the flowers
The air promised hot, summer sunshine
4. Cautious
5. Relaxed
Casual
6. Bears and/or wolves