

## Oral Reading Test

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- ▶ The four friends inch closer to the campfire, huddling together for warmth and friendship. The campsite around them is pitch black and almost completely silent except for the chirping of crickets and the crackling fire.

Jesse's voice rises as he approaches the climax of the story. He wants to keep his voice both hushed and mysterious, but he also needs to be heard over the rustling of leaves and sleeping bags. "Just then, she hears a noise, a noise that is so close she can almost touch it," he describes as he shapes his hands to look like claws. "Could it be the bear, back for revenge?" he asks.

Sarah gasps and holds her hand over her mouth, and Jesse sees in the firelight that she is trying not to scream. Mark and Lucy both lean back, pretending indifference, but their eyes dart back and forth, half expecting the bear to come from behind the trees.

Jesse crouches as if to pounce, and he lowers his voice to continue. "Then, suddenly, she sees a terrifying sight."

At the same moment, a crunching noise comes from the forest. It continues, getting louder and louder, as if something is approaching quickly. "What's that?" Sarah asks in a strangled tone. She tries to stand, but she trips on her sleeping bag and lands face down on the ground.

A large animal suddenly bursts from the woods with a large stick in its mouth. Jesse, Mark, and Lucy begin laughing uncontrollably. Sarah turns pink as she remembers how convinced she was that a bear was coming to get her.

"Sorry, guys," Mark said, "but I guess my dog managed to untie himself."