

Giants

How would you like it –
Supposing that you were a snail,
And your eyes grew out on threads,
Gentle, and small, and frail –
If an enormous creature,
Reaching almost up to the distant skies,
Leaned down, and with his great finger touched
Your eyes
Just for the fun
Of seeing you snatch them suddenly in
And cower, quivering back
Into your pitiful shell, so brittle and thin?
Would you think it was fun then?
Would you think it was fun?

And how would you like it,
Supposing you were a frog,
An emerald scrap with a pale, trembling throat
In a cool and shadowed bog,
If a tremendous monster,
Tall, tall, so that his head seemed lost in the mist,
Leaned over, and clutched you up in his great fist
Just for the joy
Of watching you jump, scramble, tumble, fall,
In graceless, shivering dread,
Back into the trampled reeds that were grown so tall?
Would you think it a joy then?
Would you think it a joy?

Lydia Pender

2.

1. (a) What does the 'giant' do to frighten the snail?

1 mark

- (b) What does the 'giant' do to frighten the frog?

1 mark

2. *Gentle, and small, and frail*

Which part of the snail do these words describe?

Circle the part of the snail in the picture below.



1 mark

3. *Gentle, and small, and frail.*

How do these words make the reader feel about the snail?

1 mark

4. How does the snail behave when it is afraid?

Give **two** ways.

1. _____

2. _____

1 mark

5. *Into your pitiful shell, so brittle and thin*

In this line, the word brittle is closest in meaning to...

Tick **one**.

shiny.

soft.

delicate.

rough.

1 mark

6. Explain **two** things that the words *emerald scrap* suggest about the frog.

2 marks

7. What is the *tremendous monster*?

1 mark

8. *Just for the joy
Of watching you jump, scramble, tumble, fall*

Find and copy two more words from the poem that show that the frog was frightened.

1. _____

2. _____

1 mark

9. What is the main message of the poem?

Tick **one**.

People can learn a lot from holding small creatures.

People should think about how their actions affect others.

People are much bigger than frogs and snails.

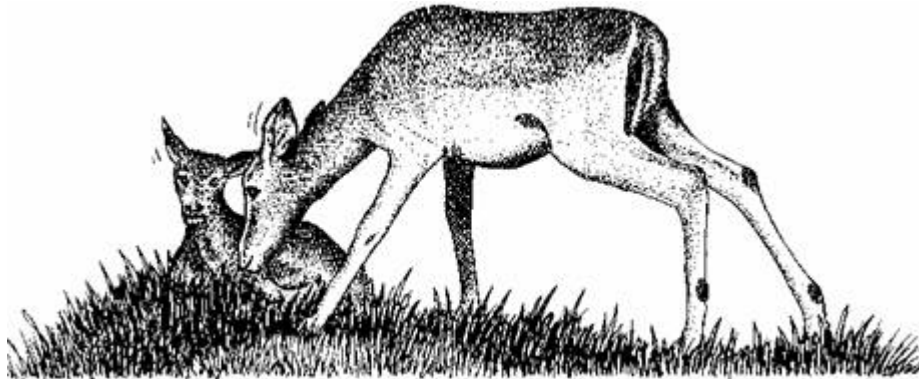
People should overcome their fear of nature.

1 mark

3.

The Flames Come Closer

*A baby impala is born on the African plains.
A thunderstorm starts a fire some miles off.
The smoke and flames are too far off to worry the
impala doe, its mother ... for the moment.*



The new-born baby was struggling to stand, helped by his mother who nudged him with her soft muzzle. The baby rose, fell, rose again.

After ten minutes he was standing and trying to take his first feed. In that time the peace of the morning was going.

To the north there was a widening belt of smoke, in which the crimson of flames flickered. The bone dry grass was burning in a wall of fire which seemed to create its own wind. At more than a walking pace the wind blew the fire southwards.

Out of the grass, insects rose in their thousands and, within minutes, birds were congregating as if called to a free feast. They kept just ahead of the thickening smoke, gulping down the dazed insects as they fled before the fire.

The animals began to move south. The baboons were the first to take the alarm. With the old dog baboons barking furiously and nipping at the hindquarters of the stragglers, the families moved out of harm's way, the babies clinging underneath their mothers, whimpering.

Zebra, impala, wildebeest, a pride of lions and two cheetahs, all headed away from the approaching flames. There was a vague smell of burning covering the whole landscape, even when the fire was still two miles away. Only those unable to run stayed to wait for the terror which would not stop until it came to bare ground, and there was nothing else to burn.

The impala doe was nervous, and when a family of wild dogs ran by without even giving her a second glance, it seemed to make her even more determined to move. She got her baby to feed and, when he had taken all he could and wanted to lie down and rest, she butted him gently to his feet again.

He tottered a dozen yards, then gave an excited little jump, only to topple and lie panting. His mother butted him gently again, encouraging him to stand. She ran a few yards away and her son bleated in terror. She came back and stood close, making coaxing sounds, and he struggled again to his feet. His mother turned and walked away, calling to him.



Bleating feebly, as if trying to tell his mother he was doing his very best, the new-born impala began to run. His spindly legs looked far too thin and shaky to support even a body as delicate as his. Yet he ran at least three yards before slipping into a wart hog hole.

For a moment the impala stared with widening eyes at the spot where her baby had been a moment before, then she bounded back. He was there, staring up with big brown eyes, and it was a minute or more before he tried to get out. He was still too young to be afraid.

The smell of burning was greater now. The impala doe knew the danger. At other times it had been easy enough to escape the approaching flames. She could leap thirty feet at a time ... but her baby could not even walk now.

It took several minutes to get him out of the hole, and then he stood on three legs. He had injured a back leg. It was not serious, but it meant he would have to walk slowly, with a limp.

There were no other animals about now. They were all moving south, just a little more quickly than the fire. They were in no real danger.

The impala mother and son moved at only half the speed of the advancing fire. Very soon she could hear the warning crackle as the flames ate up the dead grass, and even consumed shrubs and small trees.

They found themselves at a dried-up river bed. The baby impala, so tired now that his legs were trembling, rolled down the steep bank and lay too exhausted to get to his feet. Now there was thick smoke billowing overhead, and the crackling roar of the fire was terrifyingly loud.

The impala doe, eyes bulging with fear, leaped across the dry stream bed, and hesitated as if not quite sure whether to leap up the steep bank, and so go on to safety. The fawn watched her, and his anxious cries were drowned by the roar and crackle of the fire.



His mother came back to him in one beautiful bound. Above her, smoke and burning grass swept over the edge of the bank, forming a curtain which shut out the sky. The impala doe suddenly lay down, partly covering her baby.

The fire leaped across the dry river bed. It flared up on the other side. There were a few moments when the air was almost too hot to breathe, then the flames had gone; only smoke and ash remained. A welcome breath of air swept softly down the dried river bed, and the smoke swirled and eddied, then began to lift upwards. For the impala and her baby, the danger had passed.

4.

Look at the paragraph beginning '*To the north..*'

Tick the correct option to complete the sentence below.

The flames move quickly because of

Tick **one**.

the animals.

the sun.

the wind.

the smoke.

1 mark

2. Look at page 2.

Underline **two** words in the paragraph below which describe the impala doe's feelings:

The impala doe was nervous, and when a family of wild dogs ran by without even giving her a second glance, it seemed to make her even more determined to move. She got her baby to feed and, when he had taken all he could and wanted to lie down and rest, she butted him gently to his feet again.

1 mark

3. Here are some of the main events from the story.

Number them 1 to 5 to show the sequence of events.

The first one has been done for you.

Impala doe lies down covering the baby impala.

Impala doe encourages baby impala to stand.

Baby impala rolls down bank of dried-up river bed.

Animals begin to flee from the approaching fire.

Baby impala falls down wart hog hole.

2 marks

4. Look at page 3.

Circle the correct option to complete the sentence below.

The impala doe is in particular danger because

she is nearest to the fire

the other animals may catch her

she cannot move fast because of the baby

she cannot run because she is injured

1 mark

5. Only those unable to run stayed to wait for **the terror**...

(a) What is *the terror*?

1 mark

(b) Why do you think the writer used the word *terror*?

1 mark

6. *He was still too young to be afraid* (page 3).

Explain what this means and why it is important to the story.

2 marks

7. The impala doe *hesitated as if not quite sure whether to leap up the steep bank...* (page 4)

Explain fully what this shows about the impala doe's actions and feelings at this point in the story.

3 marks

8. *His mother came back to him in one **beautiful bound*** (page 4).

Why has the word *beautiful* been used to describe the impala doe's action?

2 marks

9. Look at the last paragraph.

Find and **copy** a phrase which tells you that the impala doe and her baby were safe.

1 mark

10. Look at the first three paragraphs starting from

Out of the grass...

How does the sense of fear build up as the fire approaches?

Give **three** points

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3 marks

Romulus and Remus

*This legend tells the story of the baby twins **Romulus and Remus**. According to the legend, one of the twins eventually became the creator of Rome, the capital city of Italy.*

The twins were little princes, born of royal blood. After their birth, or so the story tells us, they were cast adrift on the River Tiber by their jealous uncle, who wanted kingship for himself. They were spotted and saved by a she-wolf, who looked after them, nursed and nuzzled them and kept them safe and warm until they were discovered by a shepherd. Although they were brought up as humble shepherds, the twins grew up to be natural leaders - strong, bold and with lots of followers. As adults, they found out they were actually princes.

Having discovered their true identity, they decided to create a new city for themselves. Unable to decide where to build their new city, they looked to the gods for signs. Romulus stood on one hill and Remus on another. A circle of birds flew over Romulus. Romulus took this as a signal from the gods that he should be king. Remus disagreed. They argued about which one of them was to rule the new city and give it his name. A terrible fight followed in which Romulus

killed Remus. Romulus ruled the new city, named Rome in his honour.

6.

1. Number the following statements (1 - 6) to show the order in which they happened in the legend.

The first one has been done for you.

The twins fought and one died.

The twins were left floating on the River Tiber.

The city of Rome as named.

A wolf rescued the twins.

The twins were born.

A shepherd looked after the twins.

1 mark

2. Look at the paragraph beginning: *The twins were little princes or so the story tells us...*

What does this expression suggest to the reader?

The writer...

Tick **one**.

does not know all the details

thinks it is an amusing story.

is saying it is true.

is not sure if it is true.

1 mark

3. The wolf in Romulus and Remus is caring and gentle.

Find and copy three words which give this idea.

1. _____

2. _____

2. _____

2 marks

4. The twins disagreed over many things.

Write down **three** things about which they disagreed.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

2 marks

7.

Dear Norman



Monday, 16th of June

Dear Norman,

Thank you so much for your letter which arrived just before lunch.

It came as quite a surprise when you left with all of your possessions this morning. We did not understand why you left through the back door. Now we know that it was because you have gone to live in your tree house in the back garden.

I am sure that your decision to leave our family is a serious one. Therefore I would like to wish you all the best for the exciting new life you are starting on your own. Please do keep in touch from up there.

Love

Dad

Monday evening

Dear Norman,

You are very sweet to take the time to write. Thank you for explaining our mistakes in such detail. Your father and I will find your advice very useful.

I hope that life in your tree house is calming down since you moved in earlier today. I could see how difficult it was to carry all your things up that long, steep ladder by yourself. How did you manage to get that big TV set up there? It certainly was clever.

No doubt you took plenty of food with you up into your tree house. I have this extra cheese sandwich and a chocolate bar left over. I am sending them up your message rope with this letter in the hope that you can use them in some way. By the way, did you see those sweet busy bees below your tree house? I suppose they could be hornets or wasps, but don't worry, they look more like jolly bumble bees to me.

If you think of any other mistakes your father and I made don't hesitate to get in touch.

Meanwhile, lots of love from

Mum

Dear Norman,
Mum and Dad say I can have your room.
Ha ha!
Beth

Parkville School

School Lane, Somewharetown
Countryshire CF1 2SC
Tel: 01234 56789
Fax: 01234 67890



17th of June, 2008

Dear Norman,

I understand from your parents that I should not expect to see you in school for some time due to changes in your personal life. Please take as much time as you feel you need.

Perhaps school no longer seems important now that you live in a tree house behind your family's home. That makes sense. Geography, Music, History: which of the lessons you missed this morning would be useful in a tree house? None, probably.

What you need are different skills, skills useful for life in the wild: How to keep a small, safe fire burning for light and warmth. How to tell good berries, nuts and mushrooms from deadly ones. Which animals you will compete with for territory. Unfortunately, we don't study any of these at Parkville School. You will have to do most of your learning on your own, Norman.

Should you decide to continue any of your studies with us, please send me a note. I cannot send you all of the fun and friendship from our class here at Parkville School, but can certainly send you the homework!

Your sincerely,

Mrs Baquet

Hey Kid
Pull yourself together.
You're making a fool of yourself.
Surrender now.
They'll take you back.
Trust me
Signed,
Anonymous.



June 18th, 2008

Dear Norman,

I hope you are well and not spending too much time worrying about your lonely old grandmother. I'm fine most of the time. I do have bad days when none of my grandchildren have visited or telephoned, but try to remain cheerful.

Your mother says you have been acting strange lately. Stop it; that's not polite.

Next time you speak to my son (your father), please tell him from me (his mother, your grandmother) that it's high time he wrote a letter to his mother (me).

I'm so glad you liked the sweater I sent for your birthday.

I can't wait to see all of you next weekend. You are what keeps me happy!

Love

Grandma

Hey Norm,

What's this about you living in your tree house now? Totally cool! Does this mean you can eat whatever you want? Stop washing? Stop brushing your teeth? Are you going to wear the same clothes every day for a year? Just think: you can spend the whole night playing with your Gameboy! You can stay on strike for months! This is so cool. I wish I had thought of it.

Alfred

P.S. Can I have your bike?



Wednesday, 18th June

Dear Norman,

Thank you for your letter explaining why you do not want any pocket money this week. It made your mother and me wonder how much we would save if you continue this practice for the remainder of your childhood.

10 years \times 52 weeks per year \times £2 per week pocket money = £1,040 total savings.

(You might want to check our maths.)

Isn't it amazing the way it adds up?

Love

Dad

The Parkville Gazette

— Your local newspaper since 1912 —

18.06.2008

Dear Norman,

Congratulations! Your article "Peace Now" has won First Prize in the Parkville Gazette's *Solving the World's Problems Contest*! The judges were especially impressed by the section "Peace begins in Your Own Back Garden".

As you know, the First Prize in the *Solving the World's Problems Contest* is a trip to Washington D.C. where you will visit the White House and actually discuss your article with the President of the United States. You will be able to take one member of your family with you on this once-in-a-lifetime trip.

Please ask your parent or guardian to contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements for the trip.

And congratulations once again on your wise article!


Best wishes,

The Editor

The Parkville Gazette



Norman,
Dad said I should write. I miss you.
I think you should move back into
our house. I don't think you should
be on strike any more. It's boring.
I haven't decided yet about letting
you have your room back. We can
~~negotiate~~ negotiate.
Yours sincerely,
Your sister,
Beth



Thursday a.m.

Dear Norman,

Thank you for your letter. I understand your feelings. It will be okay just to move back into the house. Don't forget to wipe your feet.

Love,

Mum



8.

Circle the correct option to complete the sentences below.

(a) On **Monday** **Tuesday** **Wednesday** **Thursday**

morning, Norman left home.

1 mark

(b) He went to live in a tree house in

the local park.

his front garden.

his back garden.

the school playground.

1 mark

(c) He had left home because

Beth had moved into his room.

his parents had sent him away.

his parents were annoying him.

he had been expelled from school.

1 mark

(d) Over the next few days, he received letters from people that he knew, starting with letters from

his family.

his friends.

his teachers.

his grandparents.

1 mark

(e) A letter came from his friend Alfred, asking him for his

bedroom.

bicycle.

Gameboy.

toothbrush.

1 mark

(f) He even got a letter from the local newspaper telling him that

his picture was on the front page.

he should read *The Parkville Gazette*.

they would like to interview him.

he had won a competition.

1 mark

(g) Altogether, he stayed in his tree house for

a whole day.

about three days.

over a week.

the summer holidays.

1 mark

Here are some of the people who wrote to Norman.
Use these names to answer next couple of questions.

Dad

Mum

Beth

Mrs Bouquet

Grandma

Alfred

2. Who admired Norman most for what he had done?

Tick **one**.

Dad

Mum

Beth

Mrs Bouquet

Grandma

Alfred

Find and copy one phrase that shows this.

1 mark

3. Whose letter do you think was most likely to annoy Norman?

Tick **one**.

Dad

Mum

Beth

Mrs Bouquet

Grandma

Alfred

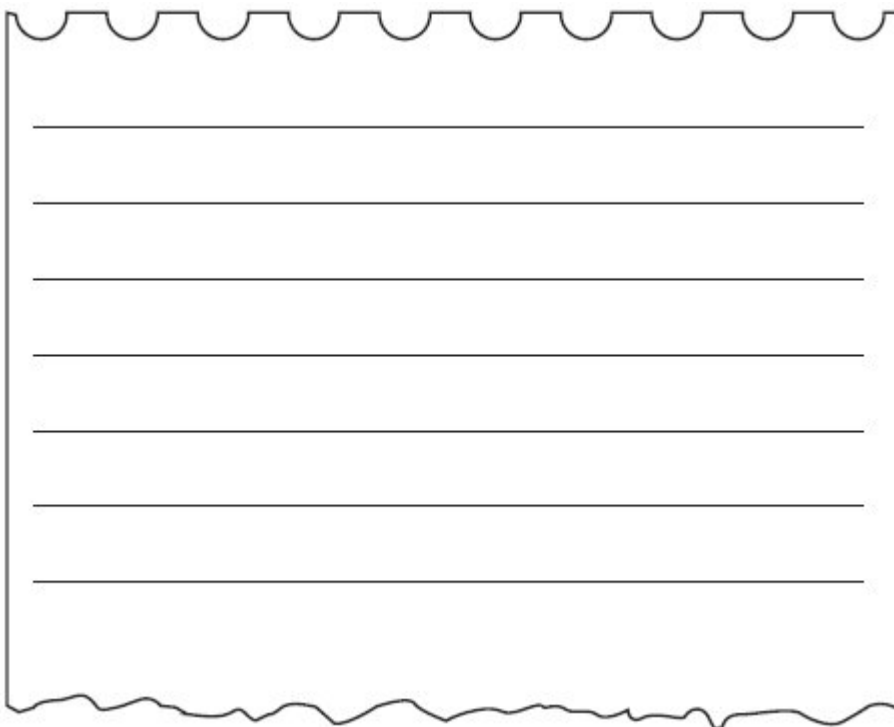
Explain why, referring to the letter in your answer.

2 marks

4. Look at the letter beginning 'Hey kid'.
Find and copy one word meaning give up.

1 mark

5. What do you think Norman wrote in reply to Alfred's letter on page 5?



2 marks

6. Beth's letters show a change in her attitude to Norman.

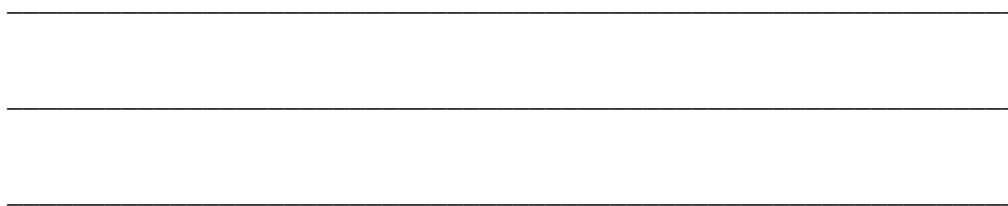
a) **Find** and **copy one** word or phrase from both of Beth's letters that best show her change in attitude.

_____ (first letter, page 3)

_____ (second letter, page 7)

1 mark

b) Why do you think her attitude towards Norman changed?



2 marks

7. In his second letter (page 5), Norman's father showed Norman how much money he was missing out on.

Why did he do that?

2 marks

8. How do we know that Norman actually answered the letters he received?

1 mark

9. The idea of a child living in a tree is quite humorous.
Explain what else is funny about Norman's situation.

2 marks

10. Why do you think Norman finally came down from the tree?
Explain fully, using the text in your answer.

3 marks

9.

This is an extract from ‘White Fang’, a novel by Jack London, written in 1906. It is set in the wild regions of Canada and is about a young wolf cub who comes across a group of men.

White Fang

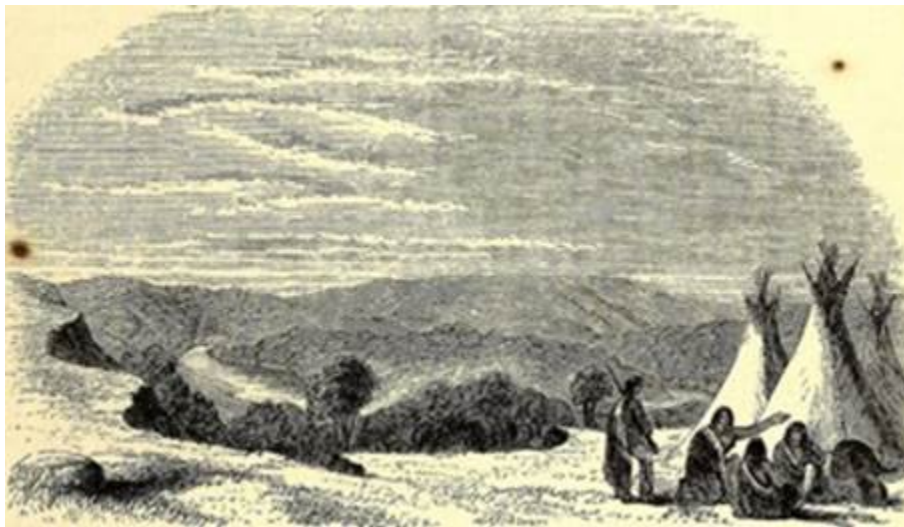
The cub came upon them suddenly. It was his own fault. He had been careless. He had left the cave and run down to the stream to drink. It might have been that he took no notice because he was heavy with sleep. And his carelessness might have been due to the familiarity of the trail to the pool. He had travelled it often, and nothing had ever happened before.

He went down past the blasted pine, crossed the open space, and trotted in amongst the trees. Then, at the same instant, he saw and smelt. Before him, sitting silently on their haunches, were five live things, the like of which he had never seen before. But at the sight of him the five men did not spring to their feet, nor show their teeth, nor snarl. They did not move, but sat there, silent and ominous.

Nor did the cub move. Every instinct of his nature would have impelled him to dash wildly away, had there not suddenly arisen in him another instinct. A great awe descended upon him. He was overwhelmed by his own sense of weakness and littleness. Here was mastery and power, something far and away beyond him.

The cub had never seen man, yet deep within him was the knowledge of his ancestors, the eyes that had circled in the darkness around countless winter camp-fires, and peered from safe distances at the strange, two-legged animal that was lord over living things. Had he been full-grown, he would have run away. As it was, he cowered down in a paralysis of fear, already half offering the surrender that his kind had made from the first time a wolf came in to sit by man's fire and be made warm.





One of the men arose and walked over to him and stooped above him. The cub covered closer to the ground. It was the unknown, revealed at last, in flesh and blood, bending over him and reaching down to seize hold of him. His hair bristled involuntarily; his lips writhed back and his little fangs were bared. The hand, poised like doom above him, hesitated, and the man spoke laughing, “WABAM WABISCA IP PIT TAH.” (“Look! The white fangs!”)

The other men laughed loudly, and urged the man on to pick up the cub. As the hand descended closer and closer he experienced two great impulses - to yield and to fight. The resulting action was a compromise. He did both. He yielded till the hand almost touched him. Then he fought, his teeth flashing in a snap that sank them into the hand. The next moment he received a clout alongside the head that knocked him over on his side. Then all fight fled out of him. His puppyhood and the instinct of submission took charge of him. He sat up on his haunches and howled.

The four men laughed more loudly, while even the man who had been bitten began to laugh. They surrounded the cub and laughed at him, while he wailed out his terror and his hurt. In the midst of it, he heard something. The men heard it too. But the cub knew what it was, and with a last, long wail that had in it more of triumph than grief, he ceased his noise and waited for the coming of his mother, of his ferocious mother who fought all things and was never afraid. She was snarling as she ran. She had heard the cry of her cub and was dashing to save him.

10.

1. Who does the word *them* in the first sentence refer to?

Tick **one**.

the men

the trails

the trees

the wolves

1 mark

2. Circle the correct option to complete each sentence below.

(a) The cub had gone down to the stream for

a sleep.

water.

food.

a swim.

1 mark

(b) The cub was careless because

he was
fearless.

he knew his
mother was
near.

he had never
come to harm
there.

he was wide
awake.

1 mark

(c) When the men first saw the cub they were

motionless.

noisy.

fascinated.

excited.

1 mark

3. **Find** and **copy one** word or group of words that show the cub was used to that particular trail.

1 mark

4. Look at the paragraph beginning: *He went down past the blasted pine ...*

Give the **two** ways the cub first notices the men.

1. _____

2. _____

1 mark

5. *But at the sight of him the five men did not spring to their feet, nor show their teeth, nor snarl.* (paragraph 2).

What does this show about the cub's experience of men?

2 marks

6. Look at the paragraphs beginning: *Nor did the cub move..and The cub had never seen...*

Find and **copy two** groups of words that show that humans have total control over animals.

1. _____

2. _____

2 marks

7. Use the text below to answer these questions.

Had he been full-grown, he would have run away. As it was, he cowered down in a paralysis of fear, already half offering the surrender that his kind had made from the first time a wolf came in to sit by man's fire and be made warm.

1. **Underline** the group of words that show that the cub is too frightened to move.

1 mark

2. **Find** and **copy** the word that suggests the cub is giving up to the humans.

1 mark

8. In the final paragraph the cub's last wail is described as having *more of triumph than grief* in it.

Explain why there is a sense of *triumph* in the cub's last wail.

2 marks

9. Look at the final paragraph.

Find and **copy** the sentence which is the turning point in this paragraph.

1 mark

10. Look at the last paragraph.

Find and **copy one** word that means *fierce*.

1 mark

11. Number the sentences below from 1 to 5 to show the order in which they happen in the story.

The first one has been done for you.

The cub knew his mother was coming to the rescue.

The cub bit the man.

The men sat there quite still.

The cub moved freely through the trees.

The cub felt small and helpless.

1 mark