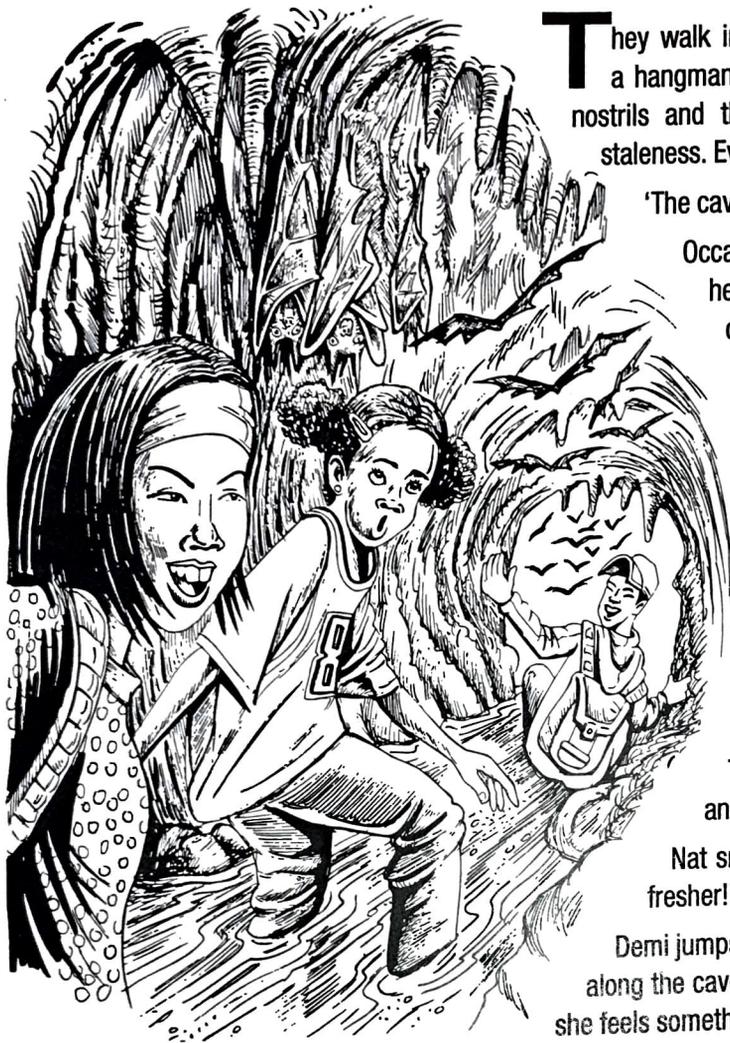


THE MYSTERY OF THE CAVE – 1

Read the mystery story.



They walk in single file, heads bowed as if being led to a hangman. The musty odour of the cave's air fills their nostrils and their mouths—so they can almost taste its staleness. Every step they walk echoes in their ears.

'The cave's getting narrower', announces Ethan.

Occasionally, the sound of something moving is heard from above. Although all three children had come to the conclusion that there were bats, hanging upside down, asleep, above their heads, no-one had managed to say the words out loud.

'They will be looking for us by now', Demi announces to Ethan and Nat. She wishes over and over that, for once, she hadn't been her normal pig-headed self and had just let her two friends sneak out of the camp without her.

The sounds beneath their feet change slightly. The trio seem to be moving and kicking stones and pebbles as they walk now.

Nat sniffs the air noisily, 'The air smells better—it's fresher!'

Demi jumps suddenly. She has been running her fingertips along the cave walls, almost enjoying its rough texture, until she feels something soft and spongy.

'There's moss on the walls—that means water.' Ethan speaks quietly, hoping not to disturb the winged creatures above him. 'We're getting closer.'

They walk about another hundred metres when Demi shrieks. The dry cave floor is all of a sudden a shallow stream of icy-cold water. Demi curses under her breath. She thinks back to earlier in the evening when she had spotted Ethan and Nat doing their 'mission impossible' routine between the trees and tents. Her fear of missing out on 'all the fun' had made her slip out of her tent in such haste that she had forgotten to collect her shoes from outside.

Ethan blinks a few times to make sure the thin stream of light he can see ahead of him isn't a mirage. The three friends begin walking faster towards the light.

A minute later, Ethan stops dead, causing Nat to collide into him and Demi to squash her nose into Nat's back, making her eyes water. They have reached the end of the cave.

'We've made it!' Ethan announces. The three friends look around them and then look up. The light, coming from a small, circular opening high above them is moonlight.

Ethan bends down, reaching into the freezing water with both hands, searching for something. He brings his hand up to his eyes and inspects its contents. The moonlight reveals a grin spreading quickly across Ethan's face.

'Have you got the bag, Nat?' Ethan asks excitedly. 'C'mon! Help me to fill it up!'

THE MYSTERY OF THE CAVE – 2

Use the text on page 47 to answer the questions.



1 Literal

- (a) Why is Demi walking through the cave in bare feet?

- (b) Explain three ways the cave changes during the story.

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2 Deductive

- (a) List some words and phrases to describe how you think Demi felt when she saw her two friends leaving the camp grounds without her.

- (b) Although the children suspect there are bats above them, why do you think they never mention it out loud?

- (c) Did Ethan and Nat invite Demi on their adventure into the cave? Yes No

Why do you think this is? _____

- (d) Which of the children do you think planned the trip into the cave? _____

3 Evaluative

'They will be looking for us by now', Demi announces to Ethan and Nat.

- (a) Who do you think will be looking for the children? _____

- (b) What do you think Ethan uncovered on the floor of the cave? _____

- (c) Would you have the courage to enter a cave at night with your friends? _____

THE MYSTERY OF THE CAVE – 3

Use the text on page 47 to complete the activities.

To help readers imagine a clear picture of a setting in a story, authors often use the five senses to describe the scene. This can help readers to enjoy and understand the story better, especially if the setting is a place that is foreign to them.

- 1 Reread the story. Highlight the sentences or phrases that describe the scene using one of the senses. Record your findings in the boxes in point form.

<p>What did they see?</p>	<p>What did they hear?</p>	<p>What did they smell?</p>
<p>What did they touch/feel?</p>	<p>What did they taste?</p>	

- 2 Did you have a clear picture of the three children walking through the cave when you read the story? Explain your answer and include what helped you to make connections to the text.

- 3 Which character do you think you are the most like: Ethan, the leader; Nat, the quiet follower; or Demi, the friend who doesn't want to be left out?

I think I am the most like the character

because