

Improving Your Reading with Cassie the Commentator : Scout's Valley



Henry slept until a rosy light, filtering through the leaves, fell upon his face. Then he sprang up, folded the blanket once more upon his back and looked around. Nothing had come in the night to disturb him, no enemy was near and the morning sun was bright and beautiful. Although exhausted and weary from his journey so far, he bathed his face in the brook and resumed

his journey, travelling with a long, swift stride that carried him at great speed.

The boy was making for a definite point – one that he knew well, although nearly all the rest of this wilderness was strange to him. The country here was rougher than it usually is in the great valley to the west and, as he advanced, it became yet more broken; range after range of steep, stony hills with narrow valleys between. He went on without hesitation for at least two hours and then stopped behind the great trunk of a beech. He studied the valley with a smile of approval.



1. Discuss an experience you have had and explain why it was similar.

2. Explain why Henry had a smile of approval at the end of the extract.

3. Who do you think the author has written this text for? Give a reason for your answer.

4. Draw lines to match each part of the extract with the correct quotation from the text.

setting

exhausted and weary from his journey so far

past events

*the country here was rougher than
it usually is in the great valley*

action

nothing had come in the night to disturb him

character description

travelling with a long, swift stride

Answers

1. Discuss an experience you have had and explain why it was similar.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I once washed my face in the river when I went camping with my grandma.

2. Explain why Henry had a smile of approval at the end of the extract.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Henry had a smile of approval because he liked what he could see when he looked at the valley.

3. Who do you think the author has written this text for? Give a reason for your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author has written this text for people who enjoy adventure stories about camping and the outdoors. I think this because the story is about camping and I think that Henry will have an adventure.

4. Draw lines to match each part of the extract with the correct quotation from the text.

