

Chad crawled on his stomach through a passageway in the cave. He was cold, hungry, and exhausted. It had been a long day. His plans to explore the cave sounded exciting the day before. Today these same plans seemed crazy. Things definitely went downhill when the battery died on his flashlight. Chad was left to using his senses to help “feel” his way through the cave.

Just then, the noise at the back of the cave started again. The noise was louder than ever before. Chad still couldn't quite figure out what it was. It was sort of a swooshing sound.

Chad kept low to the ground. The noise flew directly above him. Chad closed his eyes and clinched his fists waiting for the noise to stop. Eventually, the noise died down and Chad opened his eyes again. Chad strained his eyes to get a good look at his surroundings. What was making that noise?

With all quiet again, Chad began crawling. He was very nervous for awhile after the noise and the swooshing finished. Suddenly an image flashed through Chad's mind. Was it a bat? Chad realized that each time he heard the noise it was actually a large group of bats flying from one end of the cave to the other.

Chad shuddered at the thought of it and soon began to sweat. Taking a breath to calm himself, Chad tried to put his mind elsewhere.

STORY QUESTIONS



1

What does the phrase “went downhill” mean as used in this story?

- a. Things started to slant downhill in the cave.
- b. Chad realized he must go downhill instead of uphill to find his way out.
- c. Things had turned from bad to worse.
- d. Chad was scared out of his mind and was starting to hallucinate.

2

Which sentence below explains the problem in this story?

- a. Chad is alone and scared in a cave and doesn't know his way out.
- b. Chad is spelunking with his buddies and is separated from them for awhile.
- c. Chad is curious about bats and is studying them without any light.
- d. Chad left home without breakfast and wishes he had eaten first.

3

What could be another good title for this story passage?

- a. “Thinking Chad”
- b. “Chad Goes Crazy”
- c. “Where Is It?”
- d. “The Home of the Bats”



“Tell me again what she looked like,” asked Mary.

Mary dangled her feet from the wicker furniture. The day was hot and steamy. Sweat beads were forming on Mary’s forehead. She put her glass of lemonade to her forehead and looked at her aunt.

“Oh, Mary, aren’t you tired of hearing about that?” asked her Aunt Mini.

“How on earth could I ever tire of such a story?” replied Mary.

“Because it’s the same story over and over, and it doesn’t change,” replied Aunt Mini.

Aunt Mini was home visiting for the summer. She was a professor at an all girls’ college in the East. Mary loved it when she came home. Mary lived with her grandmother and her dad. Aunt Mini was like a breath of fresh air. She brought excitement to the farm.

“Yes, but it’s your story,” explained Mary. “You know somebody famous!”

“Knew somebody famous,” reminded Aunt Mini. “I only knew her for a short time. In fact, only one semester.”

“Yes, but she was the one and only Amelia Earhart,” beamed Mary.

“That’s right, she was,” said Aunt Mini quietly. “What a tragedy.”

“Was she good in school? When did she learn to fly?”

“She learned to fly at a flying school near the college. She was fascinated with flying; and every chance she got, she’d be at the flying school taking lessons. She spent more time doing that than studying.”

“She must have been a natural,” said Mary.

STORY QUESTIONS



- 1 Using the context clues, what is the meaning of the word *beamed* as used in the passage?
- a. smiled
 - b. opened
 - c. arranged
 - d. organized



- 2 According to the passage, which sentence shows how Mary feels about Amelia Earhart?
- a. “Was she good in school? When did she learn to fly?”
 - b. “Yes, but it’s your story,” explained Mary. “You know somebody famous!”
 - c. Aunt Mini was like a breath of fresh air. She brought excitement to the farm.
 - d. “How on earth could I ever tire of such a story?” replied Mary.

- 3 What is the purpose of the first sentence?
- a. to introduce the first character in the story
 - b. to explain the problem and resolution in the story
 - c. to provide the background and the setting of the story
 - d. none of the above

