
Table of Contents

Author! Author!	7
The Story in Brief.	8

Word Attack Skills

Using Long Vowels.	9
Adding Endings	10
Listening for Syllables.	11
Using Short Vowels.	12
Finding Base Words	13
Making Compounds	14

Comprehension Skills

Making Inferences	16
Discovering Meaning Through Context	18
Classifying Words.	20
Determining Cause and Effect	22
Classifying Word Groups	23
Remembering Details	25
Evaluating What You Read.	26
Determining Fact and Opinion	27
Matching Synonyms	28

Sequencing Events	29
Using Cloze Reading	30
Matching Antonyms	31
Evaluating What You Read	32

Study Skills

Using Guide Words	33
Choosing Correct Meanings	34
Using a Pronunciation Key	36
Determining Alphabetical Order	37

Creative Skills

Writing a Journal Sample	38
Creating a Picture	39
Writing a Book Recommendation	40
Explaining Feelings	41
Optional Spelling and Vocabulary Lists	43
Supplementary Activities	44
Response Key	46



DANGER CANYON

The Story in Brief

Calvin's mother decides that she and Calvin will spend the weekend at her daughter Melveen's house. After much discussion, Mrs Greene agrees to let Calvin's friend, Rob, come along so the boys can hike on Saturday in the national park near Melveen's.

The night before the hike, the boys hear about two detention centre escapees and a dingo that might be prowling the park. To reassure Calvin's mother, the boys promise to register at the ranger station before they start and to be home before dark.

When the boys reach the ranger station, they find they have to wait 45 minutes before it opens. They decide not to wait since the track is well marked and they don't plan to leave it.

Always with thoughts of the dingo and the escapees in the back of their minds, the boys head off down the track. They discover three deserted cabins down the path and Rob decides to investigate one of them. In one of the rooms, he falls through a rotten floorboard and twists his ankle. As they're leaving, the boys find two warm cans of baked beans on a table. Can the escapees be nearby?

Calvin and Rob run for their lives to some boulders where they can survey the surrounding area. Everything seems okay until Calvin hears something below him. When he leans over the edge of the boulder, he sees a streak of yellow flash into the forest. Since he isn't sure what he

saw, Calvin puts it out of his mind and he and Rob continue on the track.

After leaving the track to look at some fallen trees, the boys realise the afternoon is almost gone. They must start back soon if they are to keep their promise to be home before dark. But Calvin figures that they'll never make it if they follow the path, so they decide to follow the creek. They had seen the creek earlier by the ranger station, so they know it will be a shortcut back down the mountain.

After leaping down several small falls, Calvin and Rob find themselves trapped by a 12- to 15-metre waterfall. It would be impossible to jump to the pool below because of the dangerous rocks and the height. As they think about what to do, Rob admits he has heard and seen things, which leads the boys to believe that the dingo is nearby.

Calvin and Rob climb the side of the canyon wall to safety and see a light in a cabin ahead. They must pass the cabin to get to the ranger station. Could the escapees have come back to the cabin?

As they approach the cabin, they hear the front door open and someone walk across the verandah. Then they hear a car door open and shut and they see *Park Ranger* painted on the side of the door. The boys are saved. During the ride back to the ranger station, the boys plan their next hiking adventure.



DANGER CANYON

Chapter 1

Using Long Vowels

Read the words in the word box. Each word contains a long vowel sound. Say the words to yourself and listen for the long vowel sounds. Then read each sentence. Choose a word from the word box to complete each sentence. Write your answer on the blank line.

station	idea	babies
stadium	deal	behind
between	crazy	strained
potatoes	okay	

Example: 'It's no big deal', Calvin told his mother.

1. The noise of the _____ crowd could be heard coming from the TV set.
2. Mrs Greene stood _____ the television and her son.
3. Calvin's mother smiled when she called Rob _____.
4. Mrs Greene rushed into the kitchen to check the _____.
5. There were hiking tracks _____ Calvin's sister's house.
6. Calvin thought it was a good _____ to go hiking on Saturday.
7. The national park had a ranger _____.
8. Mrs Greene said it would be _____ if Calvin took a friend hiking.
9. Calvin _____ to hear the conversation on the other end of the phone line.
10. 'Sometimes my mother thinks we're still _____', said Rob.



DANGER CANYON

Chapter 1

Adding Endings

Read each sentence. Then look at the word shown in parentheses at the end of the sentence. Add an ending such as *-ed*, *-ing*, *-s* or *-er* to the word to make it fit in the sentence. Remember, you may need to change the word when you add the ending. Write the new word in the blank.

Example: One of Calvin's friends had trouble with the maths _____ *teacher* _____.
(teach)

1. Calvin _____ when his mother mentioned his crazy friend Rob.
(grin)
2. Calvin liked to think things out and make his plans _____. (care)
3. Crime made Mrs Greene _____. (nerve)
4. Mrs Greene was not fond of some of Calvin's _____. (mate)
5. There was a _____ park near Calvin's sister's house. (nation)
6. Calvin read books about outdoor _____. (survive)
7. After he finished washing _____, Calvin called Rob. (dish)
8. Rob was the top _____ on the school's basketball team. (score)
9. _____, Calvin told his mother Rob could go hiking on Saturday.
(happy)
10. Calvin did not consider _____ a dangerous sport. (hike)