

MILD - The Wild Woods – useful vocabulary



encounter - meeting



huddled - to come closely together or to curl up in a ball



furious - angry



silhouette - dark image



praying mantis - insect

throaty - husky sound produced in the throat

gaze - to stare in wonder

Story telling tips: Make sure everyone is sitting in a circle so you can see everyone and make the roars loud!

Did I ever tell you about the time I went camping in the West Midlands and had a dangerous encounter? This was a long time ago, not long after I finished college. My dad organised a camping trip with the family for his birthday. When the day arrived, we drove 30 minutes to meet everyone at the campsite. It wasn't a campsite like we're used to; just an area set aside for people to camp in. No toilets. Nothing. We really were in the wild. [Pause to ensure silence.]

On the first night, it was starting to get dark and we were all huddled around the campfire, chatting away, when there was a loud crack and crash in the woods just behind us. It sounded like a tree had snapped and come crashing to the ground. There was no wind at the time that could have blown the tree over. We were all spooked by the noise, but after a moment, we just shrugged it off and continued chatting.

[Make them low & throaty.] "Grrr! Grrr! Grrr!" A low throaty rumble echoed through the trees towards us. My dad realised everyone was around the campfire. He stood up and shouted "Who's there? You can stop with the pranks now."

"Grrr!" Another growl made the hairs on the back of my neck stand to attention. Then, there was silence... [Pause to ensure silence.]

[Nice & loud to shock them.] ROAAARRR! It was the loudest, meanest, scariest cry I had ever heard. It somehow managed to be high pitched and deep at the same time. You could feel it shake in your bones.

None of us moved. [Pause.] None of us made a sound. [Pause.] "Look!" cried my oldest cousin, pointing into the dark forest. We all peered into the gloom, and after a moment, our eyes adjusted to the darkness to see two glowing amber eyes staring back at us. Whoever, or whatever, owned those eyes was playing dare from behind a very large tree trunk. Without taking his gaze off the glowing eyes, he stammered "OK, guys. We're going to walk very slowly back down the track. Don't worry about your things."

[Nice & loud to shock them.] CREAK! CRASH! BOOM! Suddenly, we heard the crashing of breaking branches. Then thud, and another thud, quickly followed by another thud. It sounded like the earth was caving in below each furious step.

[Nice & loud to shock them.] ROOAAAARRRRRRR! The roar again, and then, from out of the forest, was this athletic silhouette, that looked like it was about to leap like a preying mantis. And it was very angry too. We all screamed and ran down the trail as fast as we could. When we reached our cars, we all piled in and headed back to town as fast as they would go.

At breakfast, at home the next morning, the news was full of an escaped animal. "We had an encounter with a genuine tiger". The campsite wasn't so convinced. We all lost some deposit money because of that, but none of us cared. We were just glad to have got out of there alive!

MILD COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where did everyone meet? (1)

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2. Why wasn't it a campsite they were used to? (1)

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3. Find and copy the word that shows the campers were cold at night. (1)

.....

4. Sequence the following events in the order they happened in the story. Put the number in the boxes on the right. The first one has been done for you. (1)

Dad organised a camping trip.
Everyone was spooked by a noise.
They lost some money.
Everyone sat round the fire
A silhouette appeared.

1

5. Using paragraphs 3,4 and 5, explain how you feel when:
they hear a low throaty rumble (1)

.....

the hairs stood up on the back of the storyteller's neck. (1)

.....

there was silence. (1)

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6. Why does repeating the words 'none of us' make us feel afraid for the characters? (1)

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7. Why do the words 'whoever or whatever' make us feel afraid for the characters? (1)

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8. What clues does the storyteller give you that it was a tiger in the story? (3)

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9. Why are some words written in brackets? How do they help the reader?

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