TEXT 1 — STORY

Questions 1–5

Glow-worm Night

On the second night of camp, Ethan's stomach felt like a knot. The class was about to walk through the bush in the dark, and Ethan did not like the dark. Not one bit.

"Torches off when we reach the cave," said Mr Tipene, the guide. Ethan gripped his torch so tightly that his fingers hurt. The path wound between tall tree ferns, and every rustle made his heart jump.

At the cave entrance, everyone stopped. "Ready?" whispered Mr Tipene. Click, click, click went the torches. The darkness closed in like a thick, black blanket. Ethan held his breath.

Then something magical happened. High above them, tiny blue-green lights began to shine, hundreds and hundreds of them, like stars that had fallen into the cave. "Glow-worms," breathed Mia beside him.

Ethan forgot to be scared. He tipped his head back and stared. When the torches came on again, he felt strangely sad. "Can we do it again?" he asked. Mr Tipene smiled. "The dark is not so bad when you know what is in it."

1. What did Mr Tipene ask the class to do at the cave?

A put on warm jackets
B hold hands in a long line
C count the stars overhead
D switch off their torches

2. In the second paragraph, the word "gripped" means

A dropped suddenly
B pointed at the sky
C held on tightly
D switched off quickly

3. The darkness "closed in like a thick, black blanket." This comparison shows that the dark felt

A warm and comfortable and safe
B heavy and all around them
C bright and full of colour
D far away and quite empty

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THE WORKED ANSWERS TO THOSE 3 QUESTIONS

1. What did Mr Tipene ask the class to do at the cave? [Detail]

Correct answer: D — switch off their torches

- What is the question asking? It asks for a fact that the text states.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: “Torches off when we reach the cave”
- Mr Tipene tells the class to turn their torches off at the cave.
- So the correct answer is D (switch off their torches).
- Why the other options are wrong:
- A (put on warm jackets): Mr Tipene asks for torches to be turned off.
- B (hold hands in a long line): Mr Tipene asks for torches to be turned off.
- C (count the stars overhead): The class could not see stars inside the cave.

LOS: Reading: finding information stated in the text

> **KEY TAKEAWAY**
> Go back to the text and find the exact words that answer the question, then match them to an option.

2. In the second paragraph, the word “gripped” means [Vocab]

Correct answer: C — held on tightly

- What is the question asking? It asks what a word means in this text.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: “Ethan gripped his torch so tightly that his fingers hurt”
- If his fingers hurt from holding it, he held it very tightly.
- So the correct answer is C (held on tightly).
- Why the other options are wrong:
- A (dropped suddenly): He held the torch tightly, so he did not drop it.
- B (pointed at the sky): He held the torch tightly, so he did not point it.
- D (switched off quickly): The torch stays on until the cave.

LOS: Reading: understanding word meaning in context

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KEY TAKEAWAY
Reread the sentence, put each option in place of the word, and see which one still makes sense.

3. The darkness “closed in like a thick, black blanket.” This comparison shows that the dark felt [Figurative]

Correct answer: B — heavy and all around them

- What is the question asking? It asks how the writer's special language works.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: “The darkness closed in like a thick, black blanket.”
- A thick blanket that closes in around you feels heavy and close.
- So the correct answer is B (heavy and all around them).
- Why the other options are wrong:
- A (warm and comfortable and safe): A blanket can be warm, but here the dark is thick and scary.
- C (bright and full of colour): The blanket is black, so it is not bright.
- D (far away and quite empty): ‘Closed in’ means the dark came close.

LOS: Reading: understanding how language creates pictures and feelings

KEY TAKEAWAY
A comparison with like or as paints a picture. Ask what the two things have in common.

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