On the Edge

Gillian Cross

1 Fill in the gaps using: hid, guns, investigate, rented, shoot, frightened, wrote, believed, hammering, found.

Doyle and a woman ................. an old cottage in the mountains in Derbyshire. On their first evening in the cottage, Jinny was passing. She heard the sound of ................. She wanted to know what was happening at the cottage, and decided to ................. One morning she went up to the cottage and ................. in a tree. Doyle saw her and told her to go away, and she was ................. She tried to tell everybody that something strange was happening at the cottage, but nobody ................. her. Tug was in the cottage. He wanted to go home, but Doyle and the woman both carried ................. and said that they would ................. him if he tried to leave. He .......... a message on a paper dart and threw it out of the window. Later, Jinny’s brother .......... the dart.

2 Match a number from A with a letter from B to make complete sentences.

A
1 __ Jinny’s parents went to live on a farm . . .
2 __ Doyle and the woman were angry with Tug . . .
3 __ Every day, one of the Doyles went to the post office . . .
4 __ Harriet Shakespeare arrived at Jinny’s farm . . .
5 __ When he took Tug and Jinny out of the cottage, Doyle took a radio . . .

B
a . . . on harvest day.
b . . . so that they could all listen to the news.
c . . . when he shouted for help.
d . . . to buy a newspaper.
e . . . because they didn’t like working in London.

3 Who said this in the story? Doyle, Jinny, Tug, Rachel Hollins, Jinny’s father.

a ‘How did I get here? And who are you?’ .................
b ‘If you want to eat meat, you must be able to kill an animal.’ .................
c ‘Poor Jinny! You have to work so hard and you never have any new clothes.’ .................
d ‘Your family are the people who can give you the most pain.’ .................
e ‘I was looking for mushrooms.’ .................

4 Which words are missing? For each sentence, choose a, b or c.

1 Tug liked . . .
a ___ loud music  b ___ walking  
c ___ running
2 Jinny’s mother worked . . .
a ___ in a post office  b ___ in the city  
c ___ on a farm
3 Tug’s mother was . . .
a ___ a reporter  b ___ a teacher  
c ___ a policewoman
4 The Free People were against . . .
a ___ prisons  b ___ families  
c ___ schools
5 Tug called his mother . . .
a ___ Ma  b ___ Lucy  c ___ Hank

5 On the paper dart that Tug threw out of the cottage window, there was a message. What was the message?

...........................................................................................
...........................................................................................
...........................................................................................

Total marks

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Setting

Choose the best answer.

1. Tug wanted his run to be ______ than ever before.
   a. longer and slower
   b. shorter and faster
   c. better and faster
   d. shorter and slower

2. As Tug came round the last street corner, he saw his ______ a hundred metres away.
   a. mother
   b. door
   c. dog
   d. car

3. The blood was beating in his ______.
   a. head
   b. legs
   c. arms
   d. ears

4. His mother had promised to cook him ______ and chips.
   a. chicken
   b. burger
   c. eggs
   d. mushrooms

5. ______ hours later Tug was in Derbyshire.
   a. Five
   b. Fifteen
   c. Fifty
   d. Fifty-five

6. At two o’clock in the morning, Jinny was looking for hares with her ______.
   a. father
   b. mother
   c. brother
   d. friend

7. Joe filled every hole and put _____ over the gate.
   a. a hedge
   b. a dog
   c. an arm
   d. a net

8. Jinny hit the hare hard on its ______.
   a. head
   b. neck
   c. leg
   d. nose

9. The sound of hammering was coming from the ______.
   a. post office
   b. cottage
   c. farm
   d. moors

10. Jinny wanted to know what was happening at the ______.
    a. farm
    b. post office
    c. cottage
    d. police station

Dialogue

Who said this?

21. ‘Visitors, probably renting the cottage. Keep quiet, they won’t see us in the dark.’
   a. Jinny
   b. Mrs Hollins
   c. Joe
   d. Tug

22. ‘What happened? I don’t remember this place.’
   a. Tug
   b. Jinny
   c. Doyle
   d. Joe

23. ‘You’re crazy! All that’s rubbish! Why don’t you explain what’s happening...?’
   a. Joe
   b. Doyle
   c. Tug
   d. Jinny

24. ‘All children get the life that their parents have chosen. You can choose your own life when you’re old enough.’
   a. Bella
   b. Ma
   c. Hank
   d. Doyle

25. ‘Doyle doesn’t often get angry, like me. But he’s a very dangerous man.’
   a. Hank
   b. Tug
   c. Bella
   d. Ma

26. ‘Oh, very nice! What a lovely family meal!’
   a. Tug
   b. Doyle
   c. Jinny
   d. Joe

27. ‘You – you’re Harriet Shakespeare? I – I know where Liam is.’
   a. Tug
   b. Jinny
   c. Doyle
   d. Hank

Characters

Choose the best answer.

11. The most interesting thing about Ma was her ______.
    a. hair
    b. eyes
    c. clothes
    d. legs

12. Doyle had a strangely ______ face.
    a. long
    b. white
    c. fat
    d. thin
If you don’t know what you’d choose to do on the last day of your life, you don’t know what’s really important to you.’

Bring the boy! And that girl! And the guns and the radio!

I decided yesterday to warn the police. So the royal family is safe.

Choose the best answer.

to think that something is true or right
- harvest
- believe
- tear
- beat

the long narrow top of a line of hills
- moors
- slide
- ridge
- fold

to look at someone or something for a long time
- stare
- throw
- beat
- investigate

wanting complete change
- government
- terrorists
- revolutionary
- royal

to move quickly and easily downwards
- stare
- slide
- throw
- tear

to move your arm quickly to send something through the air
- throw
- rent
- hammer
- fold

to bend something (e.g. paper) into a smaller, different shape
- beat
- throw
- fold
- investigate

the time when corn and other farm crops are cut or picked
- harvest
- hammer
- beat
- rent

having no hope, ready to say or do any wild or dangerous thing
- publicity
- investigate
- ridge
- desperate

on the edge of high ground
- moors
- ridge
- harvest
- beat