

A Weekend in the Lakes



Last weekend, my foster family took me on a weekend away. We packed our bags and loaded them into Simon's campervan. Normally I don't like surprises, but they know me very well and they knew I would like this one. They took me to the Lake District!

The first thing we did when we arrived was exactly what the Lake District is best known for - we visited some mountains and lakes. The mountains here are known as fells, and Jana had planned a route which took us around five fells in one go. It's a six-mile-long route, which is quite long, but the views were so beautiful we didn't even notice the time or our aching feet. We stopped at the top of a fell known as the Old Man of Coniston and admired the lush green hills spreading out before us, as well as the sprawling lake Coniston Water itself, while we enjoyed a cup of tea and some biscuits.

Once we had finished our hike, we headed to a nearby pub to grab some proper food. Hiking is hungry work! Simon had his usual - a mixed grill - while me and Jana enjoyed some lovely fish and chips. The food was great, but my favourite part of this pub was the friendly collie dog that was sitting with his owner at the table next to us. He kept putting his cold nose on my knee and wagging his tail at me. His owner told us that his name was Jack and he liked to make friends with everyone he met.

With full bellies, we got back into the campervan to visit our next destination. The drive was windy and I felt a little travel sick. Jana suggested that I put the windows down and let the cool air hit my face and that made me feel a little better. Simon was very excited about the next stop but they were determined to keep it a secret from me again. He kept looking at me and smiling like he was waiting for me to realise where we were going, but I had no idea.

Icarus's Great Escape

When we arrived, the sun was beginning to set. We found a place to park the campervan and then took a walk to a clearing. Simon got out his trusty flask of tea and poured us all a little drink while we waited for the night sky to darken. Once it was dark, I immediately understood why they had brought me here. The stars were so clear and bright! It was the perfect activity for a budding astronomer like me. Jana had brought her binoculars and we all took turns, lying on our backs in the grass and searching for constellations. It was an amazing evening.

After a comfy sleep in the campervan, we set off early the next morning to the final stop on our journey - Lake Windermere. After driving carefully down the steep and narrow roads to the shore, we parked up and Simon paid for us to hire a boat. We floated almost lazily out into the lake, chased by geese, ducks and cormorants, and enjoyed a small lunch of sandwiches (and tea) as we enjoyed the views.

Too soon, it was time to come home. The drive home was almost as eventful as the night away - we got a flat tyre and had to call for recovery! All in all, it was a wonderful trip and even the flat tyre couldn't ruin our high spirits.

Questions

1

Who did the writer go on their trip with?

2

What is the Old Man of Coniston? Circle the correct answer.

a lake

a person

a fell

a campervan

3

Why do you think they stopped at the top of the fell?

4

Find and copy an example of reported speech in the text.

5

What do you think was the writer's least favourite part of the trip and why?

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Simon got out his trusty flask of tea and poured us all a little drink while we waited for the night sky to darken.

6

Why do you think Simon's flask of tea is described as **trusty**?

7

Put the events of the trip in order by writing numbers next to the sentences. The first one has been done for you.

	They went star-gazing.
	They had a picnic on a boat.
	They went on a six-mile hike.
	They had a meal at a pub
1	They packed their bags into the campervan.

Too soon, it was time to come home.

8

Why does the writer think it is **too soon**?

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9

Simon and Jana had also looked at a visit to a theatre show, but they chose to go stargazing instead. Do you think the writer would have preferred the theatre show?

10

How can you tell that the writer has a good relationship with Simon and Jana?

Answers

1

Who did the writer go on their trip with?

They went with their foster family, Simon and Jana.

2

What is the Old Man of Coniston? Circle the correct answer.

a lake

a person

a fell

a campervan

3

Why do you think they stopped at the top of the fell?

Child's own answer, such as:

- **They stopped to admire the views.**
- **They were getting tired and needed a break.**
- **They needed a boost of energy so they had a drink and a snack.**

4

Find and copy an example of reported speech in the text.

Either of the following quotes:

- **His owner told us that his name was Jack and he liked to make friends with everyone he met.**
- **Jana suggested that I put the windows down and let the cool air hit my face and that made me feel a little better.**

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5

What do you think was the writer's least favourite part of the trip and why?

Child's own answer, such as:

- I think the writer's least favourite part was when they felt travel sick.
- I think the writer's least favourite part was they got a flat tyre on the way home.

Simon got out his trusty flask of tea and poured us all a little drink while we waited for the night sky to darken.

6

Why do you think Simon's flask of tea is described as **trusty**?

Simon drinks from his flask of tea three times in the text, so he probably uses it a lot and it has not broken, meaning that it is reliable.

7

Put the events of the trip in order by writing numbers next to the sentences. The first one has been done for you.

4	They went star-gazing.
5	They had a picnic on a boat.
2	They went on a six-mile hike.
3	They had a meal at a pub
1	They packed their bags into the campervan.

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Too soon, it was time to come home.

8

Why does the writer think it is **too soon**?

The writer thinks it is too soon to go home as they are enjoying themselves on the trip.

9

Simon and Jana had also looked at a visit to a theatre show, but they chose to go stargazing instead. Do you think the writer would have preferred the theatre show?

Child's own answer, such as:

- **I think the writer would not have preferred the theatre show as they said they were a budding astronomer so I think stargazing was an ideal activity for them.**
- **I think the writer would have preferred the theatre show as then they might not have had to travel on the windy roads and feel sick.**

10

How can you tell that the writer has a good relationship with Simon and Jana?

You can tell the writer has a good relationship with Simon and Jana because at the start the writer says that they don't like surprises but they knew that Simon and Jana would make it a good one. Jana helped the writer when they were feeling travel sick and Simon was excited for the writer to go stargazing, showing that they care a lot about the writer.

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