

RIVER RESCUE

"Finest sport in the world and it can be very exciting when you catch a fish," said Uncle Ted as they walked along the river bank, "now this looks a lovely spot for us to set up our rods." He put down the bags and boxes he was carrying and spread out a rug.

Laura and Paul were staying with Uncle Ted for the weekend and when he'd said he'd take them out for the day while Auntie June was busy, they'd expected something a bit more exciting than spending the day sitting on the river bank waiting to catch a fish.

"Now, I've got rods for you both," said Uncle Ted and they waited patiently while he assembled them and opened the box containing the hooks and weights. An hour went by; Laura thought it was the longest hour in her life. Apart from seeing a couple of ducks and a man walking his dog, nothing had happened. "Wonderful!" said Uncle Ted, "nothing like a day by the river for cheering you up."

"And boring you to death," whispered Paul to Laura.

"What time's lunch?" asked Laura.

Uncle Ted looked at his watch, "Oh, another half hour or so," he said.

Half an hour passed and they began to unpack the picnic that Auntie June had given them. There were sandwiches and sausage rolls, crisps and cakes, bottles of fruit juice and a flask of coffee. Paul had just taken a bite of a tuna sandwich when Uncle Ted leapt to his feet and yanked hold of one of the rods. "We've got one!" he yelled reeling in the line as fast as he could, "get the net ready! Quick!"

They put down their sandwiches, hurried to get out the net and watched as Uncle Ted jerked the line out of the water. There was nothing on the end of it. It was very disappointing but not half as disappointing as returning to their lunch to find that a wiry brown terrier was munching his way through their sandwiches.

Uncle Ted shouted loudly at the dog and its owner appeared and shouted at Uncle Ted at exactly the moment a pair of silvery white swans swam into view followed by three cygnets. The dog dropped the sandwich, barked enthusiastically and raced up the river bank towards the swans.

"Come back, Toby!" yelled his owner as he chased after him.

"Mind those rods!" yelled Uncle Ted,

diving towards the edge of the bank.

Uncle Ted over balanced and fell into the river just as the dog leapt through the rushes into the water right into the path of the male swan which reared up and flapped its wings wildly. The dog paddled away quickly and was soon scrambling back up on to the path. It hurtled away from its owner at top speed as the man ran after it shouting and waving the dog's lead.

As soon as the dog had gone, the swans turned their attention to Uncle Ted as he splashed about in the water.

"Help!" screamed Laura after the man, "Don't just leave us! Help us!" But the dog and his owner had disappeared around the bend in the river.

Paul snatched up one of the rods and waved it towards the hissing, angry swans, "Get back! Get away!" he shouted but only succeeded in making them more angry.

Uncle Ted was swimming frantically towards the bank but didn't seem to be making any progress and they were just beginning to panic when they heard another voice and the hum of an engine, and looking up saw a small boat heading towards them. It was the dog owner. He steered the boat towards the swans, they backed away and sailed away in the opposite direction.

"Here! Let me help you," said the man to Uncle Ted and he reached over the side and hauled him aboard the boat.

The man moored up the boat and helped Uncle Ted climb out onto the bank. The dog was standing up on its hind legs peering over the side of the boat. It gave a friendly woof. It didn't seem to realise that it had caused such a calamity.

"I'm sorry about that," said the man, "I'm Bob by the way. He gets a bit excited does Toby. He's made a bit of a mess of your lunch." They looked at the half eaten sandwiches

"I thought you'd run away and left us," said Laura, "it was really scary."

"Well, the boat was just round the corner, you see, and I knew Toby would jump onto it as soon as he saw it. Now what about sharing my lunch with me?"

It sounded like a good idea and they knew Bob was trying to be kind but Uncle Ted was wet through and they decided it would be best if they packed up and went home.

"Sorry about that," said Uncle Ted as they drove to the main road, "spoil our day, that did. And I'm going to be in a lot of trouble with your Auntie June when she sees my clothes. I told you fishing was exciting!"





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Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

Laura and Paul were staying with Uncle Ted and

- 1 Auntie Joan. Auntie June. Auntie May. Auntie April.

Uncle Ted decided to take them

- 2 climbing. shooting. cycling. fishing.

In their picnic lunch they had

- 3 pork pies apples oranges crisps

and sandwiches. Suddenly Uncle Ted leapt to his feet and shouted

- 4 "We've got one!". "Look at that dog!". "It's got away!"

Uncle Ted overbalanced and

- 5 'fell into the water'. 'leapt through the rushes'.
'tripped over the dog'. 'dived at the dog'.

Suddenly they heard the hum of an engine as

- 6 a car a motorbike a bus a boat

headed towards them. Uncle Ted was pulled aboard and rescued. Uncle Ted drove home soaking wet.

Section B



- 1 What did Uncle Ted think about fishing?
- 2 'Laura thought it was the longest hour in her life'. Why did she think this?
- 3 How do you think Uncle Ted was feeling when he leapt to his feet and yanked hold of one of the rods?
- 4 What was more disappointing than finding there was nothing on the end of the fishing line?
- 5 What was Laura asking the man to do when she shouted, "Don't just leave us!"?
- 6 What could have happened to Uncle Ted if the man had not returned in the boat?
- 7 Why do you think the author used the words 'silvery white' to describe the swans?
- 8 Which two of the following phrases best describes the disaster caused by the dog? Give reasons for your choices.
'munching his way through the sandwiches'
'leapt through the rushes'
'raced towards the swans'
'hurtled away from its owner'

Section C

Uncle Ted got a lot of pleasure and satisfaction from going fishing. Describe in your own words how an activity such as fishing (or any other activity of your own choice) gives you pleasure and satisfaction.