1.

Quiet Heroine

This story takes place in a forested region of the eastern USA. Lyddie, the eldest daughter, is preparing breakfast one morning.

Lyddie looked up from the pot of oatmeal she was stirring over the fire, and there in the doorway was a massive black head, the nose up and smelling, the tiny eyes bright with hungry anticipation.



"Don't nobody yell," she said softly. "Just back up slow and quiet to the ladder and climb up to the loft. Charlie, you get Agnes, and Mama, you take Rachel." She heard her mother whimper. "Shhh," she continued, her voice absolutely even. "It's all right as long as nobody gets upset. Just take it nice and gentle. I'm watching him all the way, and I'll yank the ladder up after me."



They obeyed her, even Mama, though Lyddie could hear her sucking in her breath. Behind Lyddie's back, the ladder creaked, as two by two, first Charles and Agnes, then Mama and Rachel, climbed up into the loft. Lyddie glared straight into the bear's eyes, daring him to step forward into the cabin. Then when the ladder was silent and she could hear the slight rustling above her as the family settled themselves on the straw mattresses, she backed up to the ladder and, never taking her eyes off the bear, inched her way up to the loft. At the top she almost fell backward on to the platform. Charles dragged her on to the mattress beside her mother.

The racket released the bear from the charm Lyddie seemed to have placed on him He banged the door aside and rushed in toward the ladder, but Charles snatched it. The bottom rungs swung out, hitting the beast on the nose. The blow startled him momentarily, giving Lyddie a chance to help Charles haul the ladder up on to the platform and out of reach. The old bear roared in frustration and waved at the empty air with his huge paws, then reared up on his hind legs. He was so tall that his nose nearly touches the edge of the loft. The little girls cried out. Their mother screamed, “Oh my!” “Hush, Lyddie commanded. “You’ll just make him madder.” The cries were swallowed up in anxious gasps of breath. Charles’s arms went round the little ones, and Lyddie put a firm grip on her mother’s shoulder. It was trembling, so Lyddie relaxed her fingers and began to stroke. “It’s all right,” she murmured. “He can’t reach us.”



2. 1. Circle the correct option to complete each sentence below.

(a) The first person to notice the bear was

Charles. | Mother. | Lyddie. | Agnes.

1 mark

(b) Lyddie told the rest of the family to climb

on to the roof. | up to the loft. | on to a table. | up the stairs.

1 mark

(c) Immediately, everyone

ran around in a panic. | screamed in fear. | got upset with Lyddie. | obeyed quietly.

1 mark

(d) The bear was startled by a sudden noise and reared up, but they were all safely out of its reach because the ladder had

fallen down. | been pulled up. | broken into pieces. | hit the bear on the mouth.

1 mark

(e) Mother and the little sisters were terrified.
Lyddie and Charles

comforted them. | ran away. | relaxed. | cried out in fear.

1 mark

2. Lyddie had her back to the family.

(a) Why?

_____

_____

1 mark

(b) How did she know when the others had reached safety?

_____

_____

1 mark

3. Why is the ladder important in the story?

Give **two** reasons.

1. _____

2. _____

2 marks

4. *The racket released the bear from the charm ...*

How was the atmosphere in the home different **before** and **after** this moment?

_____

_____

_____

2 marks

5. Charles and his mother reacted to the danger differently from Lyddie.

Describe their reactions.

Charles _____

_____

1 mark

Mother _____

_____

1 mark

6. In what ways did Lyddie show herself to be a good leader?

Explain fully, using the text to help you.

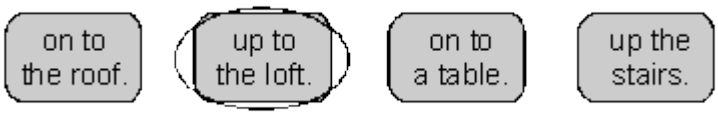
3 marks

2. 1. Award **1 mark** for each correct choice.

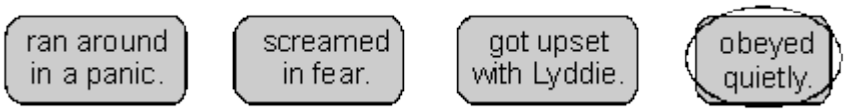
(a) The first person to notice the bear was



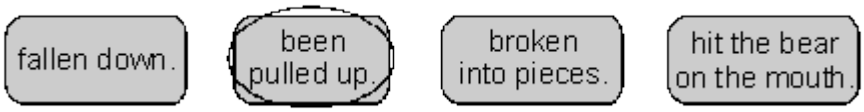
(b) Lyddie told the rest of the family to climb



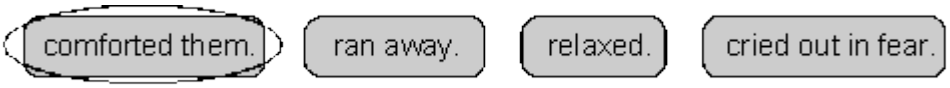
(c) Immediately, everyone



(d) The bear was startled by a sudden noise and reared up, but they were all safely out of its reach because the ladder had



(e) Mother and the little sisters were terrified.
Lyddie and Charles



Up to 5 marks

2. (a) Award **1 mark** for reference to Lyddie's attempt to control the situation / hold the bear's attention, eg:

- she's keeping her eye on the bear / watching the bear;
- she has to maintain her control over the bear;
- to try to distract the bear from looking at the others;
- to avoid alarming the bear.

Do not accept:

- so the bear could not see the others / she was protecting them.

1 mark

(b) Award **1 mark** for reference to (cessation of) sound, eg:

- the ladder stopped creaking / became silent;
- she could hear them moving up in the loft / hay rustling.

1 mark

3. Award **1 mark** for citing appropriate evidence of the ladder's crucial role in the story, up to a maximum of **2**:

- means of escape / to get to the loft / to get to safety;
- diverted the bear's attention / it hit the bear on the nose / confused the bear;
- they moved it before the bear got up it;
- Lyddie knew the others were safe when it stopped creaking.

Do not accept:

- so that they could climb up it (without reference to escape or loft);
- so the bear could not get up.

up to 2 marks

4. Award **2 marks** for accurate description of the atmosphere both before **and** after the turning point.

Award **1 mark** for accurate description of the atmosphere before **or** after the turning point.

Answers must refer to the correct moment in the text to be credited.

before • tense quietness / terrified silence / shock

after • panic / chaos / uproar / screaming

For example:

– *in the house the atmosphere was calm before the ladder hit the bear but then the bear went mad;* (2 marks)

– *before it was quiet, but it wasn't after.* (1 mark)

up to 2 marks

5. **Charles**

Award **1 mark** for reference to his calm or active participation, eg:

- *tried to help;*
- *got involved in the rescue;*
- *comforted the others.*

Do not accept:

- *brave (without supporting evidence);*
- *scared.*

1 mark

Mother

Award **1 mark** for reference to her terror or passivity, eg:

- *frightened / scared / in a panic;*
- *followed the others / did as she was told;*
- *too frightened to take charge;*
- *just cried.*

1 mark

6. Main points:

- protects / saves others;
- puts self at risk / brave;
- (quietly) authoritative / others listen to her / trust her;
- quick-thinking / alert;
- practical / controls the situation;
- calm / reassures others.

Award **3 marks** for a well-developed response referring to at least two aspects of her leadership qualities, eg:

- *even though Lyddie was just a child she did not panic and she knew what to do to control the bear, she got the rest of the family out of harm's way and only thought about saving herself when she knew the others were saved.*

Award **2 marks** for a developed explanation of one of the above or brief reference to two or three main points, eg:

- *she put herself last by making sure her family was up in the loft, safe out of the bear's way before she thought about herself;*
- *she was the one who noticed the danger and she was the one who had a plan.*

Award **1 mark** for reference to any one of the above or direct quotation of relevant section(s) of text, eg:

- *she saved her family from the bear.*

up to 3 marks