

The Treasure Hunt

Josh felt butterflies in his stomach as his mom's car turned into the driveway of his grandparents' farm. As soon as the car stopped at the top of the driveway, he leaped out.

"Don't forget your suitcase!" his mom called, but Josh didn't hear her because he was so excited about being at the farm. Every year since he could remember, he had spent a week at the farm during the summer break from school. Josh remembered how last year Grandpa said he would teach Josh to fish. Josh couldn't wait.

"Hi Grandma!" he said as he pulled open the screen door. He rushed forward to give his Grandma a big hug.

"I'm so happy you came. I have a huge surprise for you!" his Grandma said. "Your cousin Andrea is staying this week with us too!"

Andrea came into the kitchen. She said, "Hi, Josh. I found something really neat upstairs in the attic earlier. Do you want to see?"

As the two ran up the steps, Josh wondered what Andrea could have found. He loved playing in the attic of his grandparents' house because it was full of the toys his mom and his uncles had played with when they were children.

"It's over here in the corner," said Andrea.

She held up a huge, dusty, green box. On the front of the box were the words, "Young Explorers' Kit."

"Isn't it cool?" she said. "Do you think we can use it?"

"Use it? What do you mean?" asked Josh.

"You'll see!" his cousin smiled.

They opened the kit and found a compass, a canteen, a shovel, and a brown, leather bag. Josh opened the leather bag. Inside he saw a rolled up piece of paper with a string tied around it. As he took the string off and unrolled it, he realized what it was. "It's a treasure map!" he exclaimed. He saw the map had a drawing of his grandparents' farm. There was also a note that said, "Find me, and you will smile."

Andrea asked, "Do you think it's real? Could there really be a treasure on the farm?"

"There's only one way to find out. We'll have to follow the map and find out what it leads to!"

Just then, they heard a voice calling from downstairs, "Josh, come and say good-bye. Your mom is leaving now."

Josh ran downstairs and gave his mom a hug. As soon as she had left, his grandma said, "It's getting dark. Please go tell Grandpa it's time to eat dinner. Maybe we can all

play a game before we go to bed."

Josh realized that they would have to wait until the next day to go exploring. During dinner, he and Andrea told their grandparents about the map. Grandma just laughed and said she remembered Andrea's father and Josh's mom spending hours exploring the woods around the farm with that kit.

"I bet they buried a treasure that they hoped someone would find," she said. It sounds like something they would have done. I'll pack you two a special picnic tomorrow. You can spend the day exploring. You can even use the canteen if you bring it down for me to clean tonight."

Josh and Andrea looked at each other and smiled. Andrea ran upstairs and brought back down the canteen for Grandma to clean. After dinner, they all played cards for a few hours. Grandpa made Andrea and Josh hot cocoa to drink. Then he taught them how to play Crazy Eights. Josh won three games of cards, and Andrea won four games. Suddenly, Grandpa yawned and said, "I didn't realize how late it was. You two should go to bed. You've got a lot to do tomorrow."

Josh and Andrea were going to sleep in the bunk beds in the guest room. Within a few minutes, Andrea was lightly snoring. Josh was so excited that he couldn't fall asleep. He thought about how much different the farm was from the apartment building where he lived. All he heard in his apartment building were the sounds of the neighbor's dogs and the roar of cars rushing past on the nearby freeway. On the farm, he could hear birds singing and the mooing of Grandpa's cattle. At night, he could hear the crickets chirp and the sound of the birds in the nearby trees. He especially looked forward to sitting with Grandma on the long, front porch and watching the fireflies come out.

The next thing Josh knew, Andrea was pushing on his shoulder saying, "Get up, sleepyhead! It's morning, and we get to find the treasure today!"

Normally, Josh would have yelled at Andrea for waking him up, but his eyes popped wide open when he heard the word 'treasure.' He got dressed quickly and went down to eat breakfast. As he looked at the pile of food in front of him, he thought about how much he ate at the farm. He soon realized that lunch would be more of the same.

"I've made you both peanut butter and jelly sandwiches," Grandma said. "I also put in some apple slices, potato chips, and a couple of oranges. Have fun on your trip. I want you back to the farmhouse by sunset. I'll have dinner ready."

Josh and Andrea got out their map after breakfast. They discovered that the treasure was buried beneath an old oak tree. They would have to hike up the big hill behind the farm and then through the apple orchard. Then they would have to walk across a small creek.

Josh put the leather bag holding their lunch over his shoulder. Andrea decided to carry the canteen full of water. Josh and Andrea hiked up the big hill behind the farmhouse. Josh asked Andrea what she thought the treasure would be.

Andrea said, "We only have one clue. It will be something that will make us smile."

Josh said, "I hope it's worth all this work."

Josh and Andrea came to the creek. "It looks like we can cross here," said Andrea. She pointed to a space where the creek was about four feet wide. "I'll go first." She took a huge step and was on the other side of the creek. Josh tried to follow her, but he slipped in the mud and fell right in the water!

He jumped up in a hurry and ran to the other side of the creek, where Andrea was waiting for him, laughing. "I wonder if that's what the clue meant?" Andrea asked with a grin.

Josh stared at her in anger. How dare she laugh at him!

Andrea could not stop giggling. She kept looking at the mud on his clothes and in his hair and smiling.

After a few minutes, Josh could not take any more. He turned around and stomped off through the field, leaving his cousin looking confused.

"Josh, where are you going?" Andrea called.

There was no reply. At first, Andrea wasn't sure what to do. Should she keep looking for the treasure on her own? Should she go find her cousin? Finally, she decided to keep on hunting for the treasure. She walked through the tall grass and tried to remember where the map had said to go next. She thought she should go up a hill, so she started to climb that way. Pretty soon, she got tired. She took a big drink of water and wished she had the bag with food in it.

About the same time, Josh realized he was really thirsty. He had stopped under a tree to eat some lunch but did not have anything to drink. He started to wonder if he had done the right thing when he left his cousin. If only she hadn't made him so mad!

Pretty soon, both Josh and Andrea saw that the sun was going down. They both started to get worried. Josh had the treasure map, but he didn't have the compass. Andrea had the compass but no map to tell her where to go. And it was going to be dark soon.

The two cousins started to call for each other. "Josh, where are you?" yelled Andrea.

"Andrea, where did you go?" called Josh. He started to jog up a hill, looking for her.

Just before the sun went down all the way, they found each other. They were both really relieved. "Oh, Josh, I was so worried about you!" Andrea said.

"Yeah, me too," he replied. "Look how late it's getting. We need to get back before

Grandma gets worried."

"How will we get home?" Andrea asked. "I'm not sure where I am."

"Hey, I know!" Josh said, "We can use the compass and treasure map. We can figure out where we are now and then re-trace our steps so we can find the farm."

Andrea pulled out the compass, and Josh held the map so they could both see it. Working together, they figured out how to get back. Then, they ran as fast as they could back to the farm. Pretty soon, they could see the light in Grandma's kitchen.

"We made it!" they exclaimed.

When they walked in the door, their grandma turned to them. "Well," she said, "did you find your treasure?"

Andrea and Josh thought for a while. Then, they looked at each other and smiled. "You know what? I think we did!" they said. The clue was right after all.

1. When did Josh get to go to the farm?

- A. A couple of times a year during his school breaks.
- B. Each year during his summer break from school.
- C. Any weekend that his grandparents invited him

2. What did Grandma think about the treasure map?

- A. She thought that maybe the children's parents had buried the treasure.
- B. She thought it would be fun to look, but there probably wasn't a treasure.
- C. She thought the children's parents might have drawn the map incorrectly.

3. What did Andrea do right after she saw Josh?

- A. She said that she was going to be staying for the week.
- B. She told him that she had found something really neat.
- C. She took him upstairs to play with his grandparent's toys.

4. What was this story mostly about?

- A. What two cousins found in the upstairs room of their grandparents' house.
- B. How two cousins loved to explore on a farm but didn't get along very well.
- C. How two cousins got to be better friends after going on a treasure hunt.

5. What would Josh have done when Andrea woke him if it weren't for the treasure hunt?

- A. He would have told her to go so he could sleep.
- B. He would have yelled at Andrea for waking him.
- C. He would have pulled the covers over his head.

6. What was keeping Josh from getting to sleep?

- A. Wondering what kind of fun he and Andrea were going to have the next day.
- B. Figuring out how he and Andrea were going to find the treasure in the morning.
- C. Thinking about how different living on the farm was from living in the city.

7. What was Andrea like?

- A. She was easy to get along with and had a good sense of humor.
- B. She liked everyone on the farm but wanted to go exploring on her own.
- C. She was hard to get along with because she liked to make fun of others.

8. What was one of the things that Josh loved to do on the farm?

- A. Go fishing any time he wanted to.
- B. Play in the upstairs of the house.
- C. Help his grandma cook food.

9. What was Josh like?

- A. He got excited about having fun but could get angry if he thought he wasn't treated right.
- B. He loved the farm, his grandparents, and his cousin, and he was very easy to get along with.
- C. He was a good partner to his cousin when they explored the farm and was always helpful.

10. What was the biggest problem the cousins had when they were out searching for treasure?

- A. Josh fell into the creek.
- B. Josh got mad at Andrea.
- C. They split up and got lost.

11. What plan did Andrea and Josh come up with for a way to get home?
- A. Andrea would give Josh the compass and he would work it out.
 - B. They would share the map and compass and work it out together.
 - C. They would start running and hope they were going in the right direction.
12. What probably made Andrea think that she could find the treasure on her own?
- A. She had the compass and thought she could remember the map.
 - B. She knew that she was smarter than Josh so she could do it.
 - C. She and Josh had already figured out where the treasure was buried.
13. What did Josh and Andrea figure out when it started to get dark?
- A. It was time for Josh to get over being mad at Andrea.
 - B. Andrea needed Josh's compass and he needed her map.
 - C. They needed each other and needed to work as a team.
14. What did Josh like to do with his grandma when he visited the farm?
- A. Play fun games and drink hot cocoa.
 - B. Sit on the front porch and watch fireflies.
 - C. Go for walks at night to listen to the bugs.
15. What did the cousins probably think was the most important item in the Young Explorers' Kit?
- A. The map because it showed where to dig for the treasure.
 - B. The leather bag that had kept the map safe for many years.
 - C. The compass because they needed it so they wouldn't get lost.
16. How did the story end?
- A. The cousins learned to work together in order to get home safely.
 - B. The cousins got home safely, but they didn't have any treasure.
 - C. The cousins found that the real treasure was finding each other.

17. What did Grandma do to help with the treasure hunt?

- A. She packed a special lunch for the cousins and gave them a water canteen.
- B. She told them where the treasure was hidden so it would be easier for them.
- C. She taught them how to read the map and how to use the compass.

18. What might be a problem that Josh and Andrea will have to deal with when they go out again to find the treasure?

- A. They will argue over who should carry the map and the compass in case Josh gets angry and leaves again.
- B. Andrea will want to get even with Josh and will tease him the next time they are out just to make him mad.
- C. Although Josh was willing to work with Andrea when there was trouble, that doesn't mean he has changed.

19. What was probably the reason that Josh started to wonder if he had done the right thing to leave Andrea?

- A. He was thirsty and Andrea had the water.
- B. He thought she might have found the treasure.
- C. He felt bad that he had gotten so mad at Andrea.

20. What did it show about Josh when he got mad at Andrea and walked off?

- A. He got mad because he cared so much that it was Andrea who was laughing at him.
- B. His feelings were easily hurt and he thought more about himself than other people.
- C. He was a good judge of what Andrea thought about him, and he knew she was wrong.