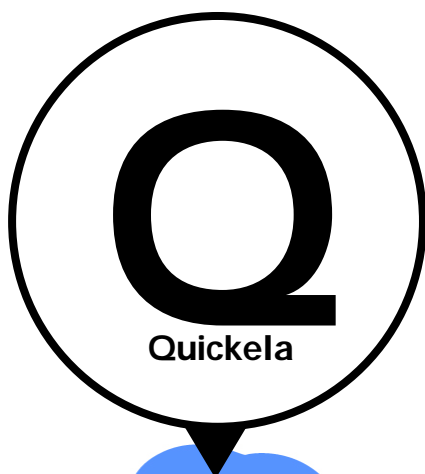


Quickread



The Yeti's Frozen Treat

A sprinkling of snowflakes falls softly around you, as you walk the deck of your mid-sized ship: *The Ice Hunter*. You shiver, as smoke-like puffs escape from your mouth and nose. Yet, that's just your breath's moisture freezing upon hitting the cold, frosty air at the bottom of the world. These past six months, you have been the lone occupant of your vessel, as it trolls the iceberg-filled waters off the coast of Antarctica. Even so, you're still sure you will reach your goal. "I'm going to find a yeti," you say to yourself. You rub your mitten-clad hands together and pull your stocking cap over your



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ears. Nearly everything you do is to stay as warm as possible.

While your eyes scan your icy surroundings, your mind turns to what it will be like when you finally capture the fabled creature for all to see. "I'll be famous," you whisper. "I'll be rich. People will say I'm the greatest hunter of all time."

However, your thoughts of fame and fortune don't last long. Instead, and quite amazingly, your weary eyes glimpse sudden movement in the yonder sea. Quickly, you pull up the binoculars that hang from a strap around your neck, and point them toward an area in the distance. You spin the dials of the device to focus on a single iceberg. Atop the floating block of ice sit two animals—a large one with white fur, and a smaller one with black. At first, your heart sinks. You think you've spotted a polar bear by mistake. But, then you think differently. "Wait a freaking minute," you say. "There aren't polar bears in Antarctica! It's a yeti! I've found the great abominable snowman!"

You can't help but hop up-and-down with excitement while you continue to look at the two animals. They are a little less than one hundred yards away, and slowly drifting closer. Your brief celebration isn't very safe—given the fine layer of ice that covers every surface of your ship. You slip and nearly fall, but somehow stay upright. You use the magnifying lenses of your binoculars to zoom in on your target even closer. "The yeti is holding a penguin," you say. "But, why isn't the beast eating the little guy? Wait! I can see their mouths moving. I think are talking to each other. I need to hear what they're saying!"

In a flash, you drop the binoculars back to your chest. Then, you carefully sprint into the boat's control room. You shuffle through the few storage compartments—knocking things to the floor. "Bingo!" you exclaim finally, as you snatch a smallish case. You set it on the top of a table, open it, and remove what looks to be some sort of a futuristic ray gun, or a little satellite dish. But, in reality, it's a sound amplifier. The gadget allows you to hear far away noises. It's a tool that spies use. You put its headphones over your ears, race back to the deck, and point the apparatus at the floating duo. You grin and giggle. You are probably the first person to ever hear a yeti speak.

"This is awesome," says the yeti.

"I know, right?" agrees the penguin. "I mean, it was easy. There was only one person on the whole ship. Sneaking on and off was a breeze."

You furrow your brow. It seems strange that they're talking about a ship. As the yeti and the penguin continue gabbing, you keep one hand on the amplifier, balancing its shaft on the ship's railing, and lift your binoculars up to your eyes once again. You spot colorful objects in their hands. In your headphones, you hear what you can only describe as licking noises.

"This tastes great," adds the yeti. "How is yours?"

"Strawberry. My favorite," replies the penguin.

In a split second, you feel your stomach drop. You look away from the binoculars for a beat. "It can't be," you say, as you turn around to stare at the hatch behind you. It leads down to your ship's hold. You see that the door is open and know you didn't leave it that way. Beginning to panic, you stumble below deck. There, you see many supplies strewn about the floor. The freezer is propped open, and is empty of contents. "My jumbo lemon pops! My very berry swirl cones! Those sneaky thieves are eating them," you whisper. "I've been robbed!"

You clench your fists and bite your bottom lip. Fury swells inside you. For a moment, the anger paralyzes you. Nevertheless, you snap yourself out of it enough to take action. "It's payback time," you utter—grabbing the net cannon mounted on the wall, and then rushing back topside. "I'm going to catch me a yeti."

In a dash, you slide across the slick surface and hit the railing. You clumsily aim the net-launching firearm in the direction of where the yeti and the penguin were. You plan to shoot the wide net over both of them. It should tangle them up until you can get close enough to grab them. There is just one net loaded. That means you only have one shot. So, you know you have to make it count. Though, as you close one eye, and peer through the aiming mechanism's crosshairs, you don't see your target. There is no penguin, or yeti, riding an iceberg. They're gone. You drop the cannon to the deck and fall to your knees. Then, you raise your fists toward the sky in anguish, and scream, "Nooooooo!" You suspect this will be the only time you'll ever see a yeti.

Review Quiz

1. The author uses the word famous in paragraph 2. What is the term's opposite?

- Vocabulary (RL.4)
- A Recognized.
 - B Renowned.
 - C Legendary.
 - D Unknown.

2. What was the effect of you seeing the mouths of the animals moving?

- Cause & Effect (RL.3)
- A You went down into the ship's hold.
 - B The yeti and the penguin vanished.
 - C The penguin made licking noises.
 - D You were prompted to fetch the sound amplifier.

3. Where and for what length of time have you been hunting the yeti?

- Recalling Details (RL.1)
- A The South Pole; six years.
 - B Antarctica; six days.
 - C The North Pole; six months.
 - D Antarctica; six months.

4. Although never stated, what is likely the source of the licking noises you hear?

- Inferencing (RL.1)
- A A dog lapping at your face.
 - B The yeti and the penguin eating their frozen treats.
 - C Your tongue sliding across your lips.
 - D Ocean water slapping against your ship.

5. Why do you realize that you can't be looking at a polar bear after all?

- Rationale (RL.10)
- A Polar bears don't live at the South Pole.
 - B Polar bears are extinct.
 - C Polar bears aren't real.
 - D Polar bears and penguins don't get along in the real world.

Review Quiz

6. This story uses an unusual point-of-view. What is it?

- Point of View (RL.6)
- (A) First person (the main character is telling the story).
 - (B) Second person (one of the characters is the reader himself or herself).
 - (C) Third person (the story is being told by an unknown narrator).
 - (D) The point-of-view is unknown.

7. What theme, or central message, could make sense for this story?

- Theme (RL.2)
- (A) If your goals are unreasonable, you will fail to achieve them.
 - (B) All penguins are thieves.
 - (C) Watch your possessions closely, or they might be stolen.
 - (D) Yetis will never be found.

8. Fact or Opinion? It was wrong for the penguin to take your frozen treats.

- Fact or Opinion (RL.1)
- (A) Fact.
 - (B) Opinion.
 - (C) Both.
 - (D) Neither.

9. Did you grab the net cannon before or after you saw you had been robbed?

- Plot Order (RL.2)
- (A) Before.
 - (B) After.
 - (C) At the exact same time.
 - (D) This never happened.

10. Which detail should be included in a summary of this story?

- Summarizing (RL.2)
- (A) That you wore mittens.
 - (B) The types of frozen treats you like.
 - (C) That something of yours was stolen.
 - (D) The name of your ship.

Open Response

1. Throughout the history of our world, people have always told fantastic tales about mythical creatures, like the yeti, that have never been proven to exist. What are some others that you have heard about? List them here.

2. Would you like to someday take a trip to the cold, typically inhospitable continent of Antarctica? What other people would you want to take with you? What do you think might be enjoyable, or not, about going there?

3. Is stealing property that belongs to another person always wrong, no matter what, or is it justified in certain circumstances? In other words, is it ever okay to be a thief? Why or why not? Explain your opinion.

4. Did you know that there are actual firearms capable of launching nets at targets? It's one of the safer, non-lethal ways to trap animals. Can you imagine other uses for a net cannon? What would you do with one?

5. In the story, your character's motivation is fame and fortune. You state that you want to be recognized as a great hunter, as well as use the yeti to become wealthy. But, if you had to choose, which is more desirable—being famous or rich? Why?
