

1.

Priya and her friends are camping near a farm owned by Mr Jones. Earlier in the day, Mr Jones had told the group that sheep thieves had been seen in the area.

A Noise in the Night

Priya woke with a start, her heart beating fast. Something had disturbed her but she wasn't sure what. Abby was still sleeping quietly beside her, and the night-light glowed, but now she could see things inside the tent, and she realised that the moon must have risen. She took a deep breath, trying to calm herself, but then she heard something rustling outside. *It's nothing*, she told herself strictly. *It's a hedgehog, or a mole. It's something nice and harmless*.



The sound died away, and everything was quiet once more. But not completely. There was Abby's gentle breathing. Someone coughed in one of the other tents. It sounded like Toby. And then there was another sound – a deep throbbing that was growing steadily louder. Just for a second a bright light flashed across the tent as a car drove past the campsite, followed by another.

Priya was surprised, and now she was completely awake. They had only seen a couple of cars all day, and now two had come past together. Although, now she thought about it, one of them must have been a truck, or a tractor, because its engine had sounded much too deep for a car.

She looked at the dark hump beside her that was Abby, fast asleep. The noise didn't seem to have woken anyone else. She could still hear it, and she imagined the two cars, or whatever they were, reaching the foot of the hill and crossing the bridge by Greystone Farm. She heard the rattle as they crossed the cattle grid on the far side, so now they must be going along the other side of the valley.

For a while the sound didn't change and then, quite suddenly, it stopped. Priya wondered about that. Maybe they had stopped at the Jones's farm. Maybe the farmer had been out visiting someone in the other valley. Whatever it was, she was going to take a look.

Very quietly, so as not to wake Abby, she unfastened the zip of the tent. She pulled back the flap and realised she could see the whole valley, blue and black and silver in the moonlight. Directly opposite, on the far side of the valley, she saw two pairs of headlights, not moving. As she watched, the lights went out.

Then it hit her.

Rustlers! They had to be. It couldn't possibly be Mr Jones. Why would he have two vehicles? Why would he park there with the lights out? She knew she was right.

She wriggled back inside the tent and shook Abby's shoulder. 'Abby! Wake up!'

'What is it? What's going on?'

'Abby, something's happening. On the other side of the valley... I think they're stealing sheep.'

Abby groaned. 'It's the middle of the night. I'm asleep.'

'We have to do something,' Priya said. 'We have to tell the farmer. Abby, wake up!'

She shook Abby again, and this time Abby emerged from her sleeping bag rubbing her eyes. 'What time is it?' she asked. 'You'd better not be making this up.'

Priya looked at her watch. 'It's two in the morning,' she said. 'I can't believe the truck didn't wake you up. Have you got your binoculars?'

Abby grunted and got the binoculars out of her bag. Priya pulled on her shoes and went outside. Seconds later, Abby joined her.

'Show me,' she whispered. 'Where did you see them?'

Priya pointed, and heard a sharp intake of breath from Abby.

'You're right,' she breathed. 'Those are Mr Jones's sheep. We have to do something.'



2.

1. Look at the first paragraph.

How can you tell Priya was feeling nervous?

Write **two** ways.

1. _____

2. _____

2 marks

2. Look at page 1.

Why did Priya find it surprising to hear two vehicles drive by?

1 mark

3. What made Priya realise that one of the vehicles was not a car?

1 mark

4. Look at the paragraph beginning: *The sound died away...* to the paragraph ending: *...the other side of the valley.*

Number the following locations 1 –4 to show the order in which Priya thought she heard the vehicles travel.

the foot of the hill

the campsite

the cattle grid

the bridge

1 mark

5. Look at page 1.

What made Priya decide *to take a look* outside the tent?

Tick **one**.

She heard hedgehog noises.

She heard Toby coughing.

She heard the engine stop.

She heard the noise from the road.

1 mark

6. Look at the last paragraph on page 1.

How can you tell that the moonlight was very bright?

1 mark

7. Look at the top of page 2.

*Then **it** hit her.*

What is ***it***?

1 mark

8. *She wriggled back inside the tent...*

What does this tell you about how Priya got inside the tent?

Tick **one**.

She ran quickly inside.

She jumped through the flap.

She had to squeeze in.

She crept in quietly.

1 mark

9. *'You'd better not be making this up.'*

Why does Abby say this to Priya?

1 mark

10. Look at page 2.

Write **one** piece of evidence that shows Abby was shocked by what she saw.

1 mark

11. Look at the end of the extract.

Why was Abby worried?

1 mark

12. Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
At the beginning of the story, Priya knew what had woken her up.		
The binoculars belonged to Priya.		
Both Priya and Abby agreed that they had to do something.		
The rustlers stopped in Priya and Abby's campsite.		

2 marks