

## The Cave – Set B: Questions

- 1) Look at paragraph 1. (2 marks)  
Why was there no escape to the left of the cave entrance?

There was a rock ledge but it vanished/petered out after a short distance.  
Also, it was too narrow to walk on.

- 2) What caused the dark stains on the cliff face to Mary's right? (1 mark)

Water

- 3) Find and copy one word which tells you that the bushes on the cliff face had not grown as tall as they normally would. (1 mark)

Stunted

- 4) When Mary looked up the cliff, she saw **a line where hard grey gave way to soft green**. What does this mean? (1 mark)

At the top of the rocky grey cliff there are green plants or grass.

- 5) Mary popped her head back into the cave and **sat down to think**. (2 marks)  
In your opinion, what was she trying to understand?  
Give a reason for your answer.

She is trying to think of a way out/how she got there.

I think this because she has already looked to the left, to the right and up and down and cannot see any way in or out at the mouth of the cave.

- 6) When Mary figured out the **obvious answer** to her puzzle, she immediately set off back into the cave. (2 marks)  
Why did she set off back into the cave? Explain your reasoning.

She set off back into the cave to find the way out. If there was no way in/out through the mouth of the cave, then she realised that she must have got there through the back of the cave.

- 7) Read paragraph 5. Why had the light **dwindled to the size of a peanut**? (1 mark)

She had moved away from it into the back of the cave, and so it looks smaller.

- 8) Mary's **feelings of optimism...were soon to evaporate completely**. (1 mark)

This is an example of: (Tick one)

- a) Hyperbole
- b) Metaphor**
- c) Synonym
- d) Simile
- e) Alliteration

- 9) **Find and copy one** word from paragraph 6 which means *to think about*. (1 mark)

Contemplate

- 10) What were Mary's feelings when she reached the back of the cave? (2 marks)

How do you know this?

At first she was desperate to find a way out – she *frantically* waved her torch.  
She was then very disappointed = her hopes were *dashed*.

- 11) Find the text: **The walls, roof and sides of her subterranean prison joined together in a stony embrace**. What does this mean? (1 mark)

There was no way through – no gap or passage between walls, roof and ceiling.

- 12) Why were Mary's hopes dashed? (Tick **one**) (1 mark)

- a. The roof had collapsed and blocked the way.
- b. She was exhausted and could not carry on.
- c. She did not know which tunnel to choose to escape from the cave.
- d. She could see no way out.**
- e. Her torch batteries had run out and she could not see where to go.
- f. She had forgotten to set her TV to record *Strictly*.

- 13) Choose the word which describes **least well** how Mary was feeling when she turned around and retraced her steps. Tick **one**: (1 mark)
- a. Concerned
  - b. Panicked
  - c. Agitated
  - d. Relaxed**
  - e. Worried
  - f. Nervous

- 14) Find and copy an example of a simile from paragraph 7. (1 mark)

Her neurons fired **like** an artillery barrage

- 15) Find the text: ***Surely this was impossible.*** (1 mark)  
Explain what was **impossible**.

**That there was no way out of the back of the cave as well as at the mouth.**

- 16) What three things **were not an option** for Mary? (3 marks)  
Explain why each one was not an option.

**Fight – she is on her own and has no enemy to fight;**  
**flight – she has nowhere to run;**  
**freeze – there is no point in freezing as she has no adversary.**

- 17) Where was Mary when she was **reunited with the daylight**? (1 mark)

**At the mouth/entrance of the cave where it is light.**

- 18) When Mary poked her head out into the abyss, she (Tick **one**): (1 mark)
- a. wondered how high up she was;
  - b. tried to think of a new plan to get home;
  - c. thought about which of the many choices for escape she would pick;
  - d. once more thought about her small number of possible option;**
  - e. day-dreamed about who had won *Strictly* this week.

- 19) Why did Mary take **a deep breath** before leaving the cave (1 mark)

**She was about to do something dangerous and risky.**

20) How did Mary leave the cave?

(1 mark)

She climbed out up the cliff face.

21) Do you think Mary reached safety after leaving the cave?

(3 marks)

Find evidence from the text to support your answer.

Explain how this evidence backs up your opinion.

Yes.

In the text it says that she forced herself to remain calm and began reciting prime numbers to help her remain in control.

This shows that she is very good at controlling her fear/emotions to focus on a practical problem.