

The Missing Marshmallows

Ms. Pine tied the strings of the pack with a tight knot. “Ok, scouts,” she said. “Who wants to carry the pack on the hike?” No one raised a hand.

“It’s an important job,” said Ms. Pine. “The pack has all the ingredients for s’mores! We’ll build a campfire and roast marshmallows at the end of the hike.”

The pack was heavy, so Harper, Ivy, and Maya decided to share the load. They would take turns carrying it. Harper went first.

“Wow,” she said. “This really is heavy. But it’s worth it. Marshmallows are my favorite treat.”

They scouts walked for a while. Then they stopped to use the bathroom. Of course there was no real bathroom in the woods, so they had to use a tree.

“Ugh,” said Ivy. “I don’t want to do that. I don’t really have to go anyway. I’ll stay here with the pack.”

After the bathroom break, Ivy took the pack. Then Maya took a turn carrying it as they hiked up the last hill.

While they were hiking, the scouts compared the badges they’d earned. “I got my badge for community service,” said Harper. “I helped at the food pantry at Thanksgiving.”

“I got my badge for swimming,” said Ivy. “I took lessons over the winter.”

“I got my badge for knot-tying,” said Maya. “I learned how to tie all the different knots. And untie them too.”

Eventually the scouts got to the end of the hike. Maya set the pack down. Ms. Pine helped them build a campfire. But when they opened the pack to get out the ingredients for the s’mores, there were no marshmallows!

“What happened to the marshmallows?” asked Ms. Pine.

“Harper might have taken them,” said Maya. “She told us marshmallows were her favorite treat.”

“It wasn’t me,” said Harper. “Maybe it was Ivy. She stayed behind with the pack when we went to the bathroom. She was the only one who was alone with it.”

“It wasn’t me,” said Ivy. “It must have been Maya. She’s the one who knows how to untie knots.”

“Actually, scouts, I just remembered something. I forgot the marshmallows on my kitchen counter,” said Ms. Pine. “I’m so sorry!”

“That’s ok,” said Harper. “I’m just glad none of us took them. That wouldn’t be very kind.”

“Yeah,” agreed Ivy. “Sorry I thought you had done it, Maya.”



“No worries,” said Maya. “At least we can have a snack of graham crackers and chocolate!”



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NAME: _____ DATE: _____

1. Where is the L button supposed to take them?
 - a. To the lobby
 - b. To the roof
 - c. To their room
 - d. To the ice maker

2. What is the first sign that there is a ghost in the hotel?
 - a. The ice bucket fills up on its own
 - b. The elevator goes up instead of down
 - c. The elevator disappears
 - d. There is a cool breeze in the elevator

3. Why don't they want to ride the elevator back to their room?
 - a. They don't want to go back to their room
 - b. They don't want to meet the ghost again
 - c. They want to get exercise by taking the stairs
 - d. They don't remember what floor they are on

4. Why does Jamar think there's something on the roof?
 - a. Because the ice bucket is full
 - b. Because it is cold
 - c. Because he hears footsteps
 - d. Because the person at the front desk said there was a resident ghost

Instructions for teachers:

These questions can be used to assess understanding of the reading passage.

The item in bold is the correct answer for each question.

1. Why did Harper, Ivy, and Maya take turns with the pack?
 - a. Because they wanted to guard it
 - b. Because it was heavy**
 - c. Because Ms. Pine told them to
 - d. Because they had to use the bathroom
2. What did Harper earn a badge for?
 - a. Swimming
 - b. Knot-tying
 - c. Hiking
 - d. Community service**
3. Why did Ivy think Maya's knot-tying ability was a clue?
 - a. Because she loved marshmallows
 - b. Because Ms. Pine tied a knot on the pack**
 - c. Because she was smarter than all of them
 - d. Because she stayed behind with the pack
4. What ingredients are in s'mores?
 - a. Chocolate
 - b. Graham crackers
 - c. Marshmallows
 - d. All of the above**