

## Reading - Adventure at the Niagara Falls

“Happy birthday!” Andy said and smiled at my 17-year-old brother Jason. “I’ve got a surprise for you.”

“What is it?” Jason asked. “I can’t see any present!”

“No, you can’t,” Andy laughed. “We’re going to go on a boat trip on the Niagara River.

I asked my dad and we can borrow his boat. What do you say?”

- 5 “Oh, can I come too?” I asked with big, innocent eyes. “Please?” I smiled at my brother like only cute little sisters can. When the boys looked at each other and started to grin, I knew I had won.

Andy’s family and our family had been friends from the time when we moved to Niagara Falls two years ago. Andy and Jason were on the school baseball team. The boys always hung out together at the weekends and our families often went camping near the river in the summer.

- 10 Andy’s dad had a small fishing boat. He loved to get the food for our barbecues. But my brother and I had never been on his boat before.

“Guys, I’m not sure this is a good idea,” my mother said. “Sheila is only seven. She can’t swim.”

Andy put his arm around me. “Don’t worry, Mrs. Robinson,” he said. “We’ll look after her.”

“I promise, Mom,” Jason said.

- 15 My mom was still worried. But I was so excited that she finally agreed. “OK, but Sheila must wear a life jacket<sup>1</sup> all the time,” she said.

On the next Saturday Andy, Jason and I were sitting in the *Mary Anne*. It was a five-meter-long, blue fishing boat. The weather was perfect for our first boat trip. I couldn’t stop laughing as I waved at the people in the other boats.

- 20 “Hey Sheila, would you like to be the captain?” Andy asked. “Can you see the bridge over there? That’s where we’re going.”

I proudly led our boat towards Grand Island Bridge.

“Behind the bridge the river gets too dangerous because the Niagara Falls are not far away. But don’t worry, we won’t go near the falls. We’re going to go to Grand Island on the other side of the river.”

- 25 Suddenly there was a loud bang. My brother looked at Andy nervously. “What was that?” he asked. “I don’t know,” Andy answered. “Maybe we hit a rock or something.”

When I looked down, I saw that there was water in the boat and it was getting higher with every minute.

“Jason, take out two life jackets!” Andy shouted.

- 30 He wasn’t smiling any more. The boys had just put on their life jackets when the boat started to turn over. All three of us fell in the river. The water pulled me down and something hit me hard.

When I came up for air, I could see our boat go past Grand Island Bridge, moving faster and faster towards the falls. I panicked. I didn’t want to go down the Niagara Falls. I didn’t want to die.

Suddenly I felt strong arms around me.

- 35 “Don’t be scared. I’ll hold you,” Andy said.

I looked around and tried to find out where we were. There were people on the island watching us.

“Why don’t they help us?” I thought. I got angry and wanted to scream, but then I saw it.

There was a big, white boat near us. Before I knew what was happening, something hit the water next to us.

- 40 “Here, hold on to the life belt!” a voice shouted.

That was easier said than done. With his arm around my body Andy did his best to get the life belt.

Finally, after he had tried three times, Andy was able to grab the rope and they pulled us on board.

“Where is Jason?” were the last words I said before everything went black ...

<sup>1</sup> This is a life jacket:<sup>2</sup> This is a life belt:<sup>3</sup> This is a rope:

# 1 Read the text. Tick (✓) the right answer.

Lies den Text. Hake die richtige Antwort ab.

1. The text is ...

- ☐ a) a newspaper report.  
☐ b) a short story.  
☐ c) from a diary.

2. Who tells it?

- ☐ a) Jason  
☐ b) Andy  
☐ c) Sheila

The text has ...

- ☐ a) an open ending.  
☐ b) a happy ending.  
☐ c) more than one ending.



## 2 Right, wrong or not in the text? Tick (✓) the correct box for each sentence.

Richtig, falsch oder nicht im Text? Hake für jeden Satz das korrekte Kästchen ab.

- Jason and Andy are brothers.
- It's Jason's 17th birthday.
- Andy's dad loves fishing.
- Sheila's mom wasn't happy about the boat trip.
- The boat trip was on the weekend.
- There weren't enough life jackets on board.
- The people on the big, white boat threw a life belt.
- Andy went down the Niagara Falls.

right      wrong

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## 3 These sentences are wrong. The mistakes are underlined. Correct the mistakes and write down the right words.

Diese Sätze sind falsch. Die Fehler sind unterstrichen. Verbessere und schreibe die richtigen Wörter auf.

- Andy's family moved to Niagara Falls two years ago.
- Jason and Andy play football together.
- The Mary Anne is a five-meter-long, white fishing boat.
- Grand Island is on the other side of the falls.
- Andy tried three times to pull them on board.

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○ **5 Complete each sentence with the right word from the text.***Ergänze jeden Satz mit dem richtigen Wort aus dem Text.*

captain

panic

grab

promise

scream

*Example:* A captain is the leader of a ship or boat.

innocent

1. When you are \_\_\_\_\_, you haven't done anything wrong.
2. When you \_\_\_\_\_ something, you tell someone that you will do it.
3. When you \_\_\_\_\_, you feel suddenly very scared and can't think.
4. When you \_\_\_\_\_, you shout loudly because you are hurt or scared.
5. When you \_\_\_\_\_ something, you take it and hold it with your hand.