

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### I Survived The Attack of the Grizzlies, 1967



# CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS AND JOURNALISM ASSIGNMENT

### CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS:

1. Why doesn't Mel want to be at the cabin in Glacier National Park this summer?

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2. Why does Mel think it's her fault that her mom died?

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3. Why do Pops and Mom believe that showing respect in the wild is important?

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4. When Mel encounters the grizzly outside the cabin, what does she do?

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5. What does Mel notice about the grizzly that attacks the cabin?

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## CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS AND JOURNALISM ASSIGNMENT *(CONTINUED)*

6. Why doesn't the park ranger take Mel seriously when she tells him about the grizzly attack at the cabin?

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7. What is wrong with the grizzlies in the park, and how are humans involved?

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8. What is the difference between a bear charging for real and a bear bluff-charging?

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9. What do Mel, Aunt Cassie, and Steve discover at the Granite Park Chalet?

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10. What does Aunt Cassie do about the problem with the bears? What effect does this have?

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## ANSWERS

### CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS:

1. Mel's mother died in an accident in December, and it's Mel's first time at the cabin without her. It hurts to be there because everything she sees reminds her of her mom.
2. Mel and her mom got into a car accident on an icy road after Mel begged her mother to drive her to a friend's house for a sleepover.
3. They believe that the wilderness belongs to the animals, and that humans are just guests there.
4. Mel keeps her eyes glued to the ground and walks backward slowly until she gets to the cabin. Then she goes inside and slams the door closed behind her.
5. Mel notices that the grizzly's breath smells like rotting meat and vomit.
6. The park ranger already knows about the bear he calls 'Old Slim,' and thinks he's harmless. The man is actually only a volunteer, not a ranger, and tells Mel that most of the rangers are more worried about forest fires. It is clear that park staff don't understand the danger of bears getting too close to the people in the park.
7. People are leaving leftover food and trash all over the park. The grizzlies are eating the food and trash instead of hunting or eating berries. As a result, they are swallowing plastic, metal, and glass, and they're getting sick and suffering.
8. When a bear is charging for real, its ears are pinned back, its silent, and it runs toward its target without stopping. When a bear bluff charges, it makes noise and stops short—it's just trying to scare its target.
9. They discover that the staff at Granite Park Chalet are using the garbage dump behind the hotel to lure grizzlies every night for the entertainment of their guests.
10. Aunt Cassie is a journalist, and she writes an article about what the people are doing to the grizzlies in the park. A national magazine publishes the article, which make people around the country aware of the problem. This puts pressure on the park to make strict rules about cleaning up trash and not leaving anything behind that would be dangerous for the animals.

### JOURNALISM ASSIGNMENT:

Answers will vary but should include a basic summary of: how Aunt Cassie came to be at the chalet as a result of meeting wildlife scientist Steve; the garbage dump at Granite Park Chalet being used to lure grizzlies to entertain hotel guests; and the idea that getting the story out to the public could force the park to take action that would protect the grizzlies from humans who don't know how to respect the wilderness.