

Hiding in the Dark

It was well past midnight. Danny was very worried because his father had gone hunting and had not returned yet. He decided to take a small car his father was repairing and went to look for him. Then he saw a police car coming towards him.

He didn't dare look round to see if they were stopping and going back after him. He was certain they would stop. Any policeman in the world would stop if he suddenly passed a small boy in a tiny car chugging along a lonely road at half past two in the morning. His only thought was to get away, to escape, to vanish, though he had no idea how he was going to do that. He pressed his foot harder still on the accelerator. Then all at once he saw in his own dim headlamps the tiny gap in the bushes on his left-hand side. There wasn't time to slow down so he just turned the steering-wheel hard over and prayed. The little car swerved violently off the road, leaped through the gap, hit the rising ground, bounced high in the air, then skidded round sideways behind the bushes and stopped.

The first thing he did was to switch off all his lights. He was not quite sure what made him do this except that he knew that if he was hiding from someone in the dark he shouldn't shine lights all over the place to show where he was. He sat very still in his dark car.

The bushes were thick and Danny couldn't see through them. The car had bounced and skidded sideways in such a way that it was now right off the track. It was behind the bushes and in a field. He could hear the police car. It had pulled up about fifty metres down the road and now it was backing and turning. The road was far too narrow for it to turn round in one go. Danny held his breath..... and waited.

Suddenly, the roar from the motor got louder and the police car came back fast with the headlamps blazing. There was no way Danny could hide from the police now.

(adapted from Danny, the Champion of the World by Roald Dahl)

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Tick (✓) the correct word or phrase to answer the questions.

1. Danny's father had gone

a.	hunting.	
b.	fishing.	
c.	for a walk.	
d.	to his friend's house.	

2. Danny was very worried because

a.	he was late.	
b.	his father had not returned yet.	
c.	he didn't find his car.	
d.	it was stormy outside.	

3. The police car was

a.	coming towards him.	
b.	right behind him.	
c.	far away.	
d.	parked on the road.	

4. Danny's only thought was to

a.	go home.	
b.	talk to the policeman.	
c.	stop the car in the road.	
d.	escape and vanish.	

5. Where did Danny hide?

a.	in a tiny gap in the bushes.	
b.	in a cave.	
c.	in a dark valley.	
d.	in a narrow street.	

6. The first thing Danny did was

a.	switch the radio off.	
b.	close the car windows..	
c.	switch off all his lights.	
d.	phone his dad.	

7. Danny thought the police car would stop because

a.	the car was very old.	
b.	he was speeding.	
c.	small boys shouldn't be driving a car.	
d.	there was too much traffic.	

8. It was

a.	early in the afternoon.	
b.	late in the morning.	
c.	six o'clock in the evening.	
d.	well past midnight.	

9. Danny couldn't see through the bushes because

a.	he was far away.	
b.	the bushes were thick.	
c.	the car window was dirty.	
d.	there was no moonlight.	

10. The car was **right off the track**. This means that

a.	the car was parked properly.	
b.	the car had broken down.	
c.	the car was no longer on the road.	
d.	the car was on the right side of the road.	

(10 x 1 = 10 marks)

11. Put a tick (✓) to show whether each sentence is TRUE or FALSE.

	True	False
a) Danny's father went hunting.		
b) Danny took his bike and went to look for his father.		
c) Danny could see the bushes on his left-hand side.		
d) He sat very still in his car.		
e) The police car could turn round in one go because the road was wide.		
f) Danny listened to the radio while he hid from the police.		
g) Danny succeeded in hiding from the police.		

(7 x 1 = 7 marks)

12. Fill in the blanks with a suitable WORD.

a) Danny decided to take a small car his father was _____.

b) The road was too _____ for the police car to turn round in one go.

c) The car headlamps were **blazing**. This means the light was very _____.

(3 x 1 = 3 marks)