



The Girl Who Knew No Fear

**a short story for English
reading and speaking**

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Introduction

What are you afraid of?

(Can you remember a time when you felt very afraid?)

Do you think fear is a good or a bad thing? Why?

What would life be like if you had no fear at all?

(Would it be fun, dangerous, or something else?)

Have you ever done something brave? What happened?

The Girl Who Knew No Fear

Macy sat on a park bench, her eyes fixed on her daughter, Lila, who was halfway up the tallest slide in the playground.

The other children climbed slowly, cautious and careful. Lila didn't even pause. She weaved between them, half their size but twice as fast, pushing herself upward like it was the only thing that mattered.

"She's very brave," said a woman on the next bench. She wore sunglasses and had that polished look Macy had come to recognise. "Is she yours?"

Macy nodded. "Yes. She's mine."

The woman smiled politely. "You must be proud."

Macy gave a small smile in return but said nothing.

Pride wasn't quite the word.

Lila had been different since the day she was born. At first, Macy thought she was just bold. But when Lila ran into the sea at two years old, laughing while her skin turned blue with

cold, and never cried from scrapes or falls, Macy started to worry.

The doctor had explained it during a long appointment in a white room with buzzing lights.

Something in the amygdala, he had said, vaguely. Macy has no idea what he meant then. She still wasn't sure.

"She has trouble processing fear," the doctor had said. "And she may not feel pain in the normal way. You'll have to keep a very close eye on her. More than most mothers. Twenty-four seven, if you can manage."

And that's what she did.

Or tried to do.

"Mum! Look!"

Macy blinked. Lila was now standing at the top of the slide, arms out like an acrobat, legs spread wide for balance.

Before Macy could speak, Lila launched herself down with a shout of joy, twisting as she went, and landed at the bottom, jumping up into a standing position like an Olympics gymnast, as if she'd trained for it all her life.

Gasps echoed from nearby parents.

Lila ran up to Macy, beaming.

“Did you see me, Mum?”

“Yes, darling,” Macy said, brushing a leaf from her daughter’s top. “I saw.”

Macy tried to resist checking how the other parents nearby reacted, but she could not.

Some mothers nearby gave her that look. The look that Macy knew only too well by now.

Tight smiles. A tilt of the head. The kind of look that says: What kind of mother lets her child do that?

But they didn’t know Lila.

They couldn’t.

“Can we get ice cream?” Lila asked, bouncing on her toes. “Please?”

Macy stood and nodded. “Alright. But stay close.”

They crossed the park toward the ice-cream van near the path by the road.

Cars sometimes came through the bend too fast, ignoring the 20km signs.

The ice-cream van was parked beside a hedge. A man in a

green hat served cones from a little window.

“Strawberry and bubblegum,” Lila said, without thinking.

Macy paid, and they sat down on a wooden bench. It was warm now, the sun soft on her back. She took a breath and allowed herself to relax, just for a moment.

Lila licked her cone and glanced up.

“Mum, do you remember when I climbed on top of the garage?”

Macy flinched. “Yes. I remember.”

“I wanted to see what the birds can see,” Lila said.

Macy nodded, saying nothing. She remembered too well. Lila had climbed out the upstairs window, balanced along the narrow ledge in just her socks and pyjamas, and leapt onto the neighbour’s garage roof. The firefighter who rescued her had been polite, but his eyes had said everything.

“I didn’t fall though,” Lila said proudly.

“No. You didn’t,” Macy said, her voice tight.

“I liked it up there,” Lila added. “It was peaceful.”

She continued eating her ice cream, eyes following a bird flying overhead. A pigeon, grey and simple, but to Lila it

might as well have been an eagle.

Suddenly, she stood up.

“Lila. Sit down. Finish your ice cream.”

“I just want to see where the bird goes.”

“Lila, no. Stay here.”

But Lila was already running, cone in one hand, the other stretched out like she was balancing on a wire.

“Lila!”

She turned and grinned. “It’s okay, Mum!”

Then she was off like a bolt of lightning.

Macy’s heart skipped.

She got to her feet, her own cone slipping from her fingers and falling to the path.

“Lila!”

She ran, panic chasing through her nervous system. Lila was already near the hedge that bordered the small footpath. The trees blocked Macy’s view. She could hear voices, a dog barking, a car engine.

“Lila!” Macy pushed through the hedge.

But there was no sign of her daughter.

Just the road. A car moving slowly around the bend. A woman with shopping bags. A boy on a bike riding past. A patch of pink ice cream melting on the hot pavement.

Macy turned in every direction.

Behind the ice-cream van.

Behind the bench.

Along the path.

Nowhere.

“LILA!”

A man looked over, startled. “Are you alright?”

Macy didn’t answer. She kept turning, searching.

She ran back toward the hedge, pushed through the leaves again, came out the other side. Back into the park. Scanned the grass. The slide. The climbing frame.

Nothing.

No small girl in red sandals.

No dirt-stained T-shirt.

No cheeky grin.

“Lila...” Macy whispered, her voice thin. “Where are you?”

The world was calm. Too calm. People strolled by. Children

laughed on the swings. A dog chased a ball. Everything was normal.

Except it wasn't.

Macy couldn't see her daughter. There was no sign of her.

And when a girl who doesn't know fear runs into the world without looking back...

There's no telling where she might end up.

Reading Comprehension Questions

Who are the main characters in the story?

How are they related?

Where does the story take place?

What is Macy doing?

What is Lila doing?

What comment does the woman on the bench make to Macy about Lila?

What made Macy start to worry about Lila's behaviour?

What two examples in the story describe Lila's behaviour as a young child?

How did the doctor describe Lila's condition?

What advice did the doctor give to Macy?

What action does Lila perform on the slide?

How do nearby parents react when they see what Lila does?

What does Macy remove from Lila's clothing?

Does Macy turn to look at the other parents?

What kind of facial expressions does Macy notice in the other parents?

What does Lila want to eat?

Where do the two of them go?

Is the ice-cream man wearing a hat?

What flavour ice cream does Lila want?

What possible danger does the story hint at as they walk toward the ice-cream van?

Where do they sit to eat their ice creams?

What story does Lila recount?

Why did Lila climb onto the garage roof?

What was she wearing when she did this?

Who saved her?

Did Lila fall from the garage roof?

Why did she like it there?

What does Lila want to do when she sees the bird?

How does Macy react when Lila runs off?

What happens to Macy's ice-cream cone?

What prevents her from seeing clearly?

What can she hear?

Can Macy see her daughter?

What can Macy see by the road?

Does anyone help Macy?

How does the story describe Macy's desperation as she searches?

Why is this moment especially dangerous for a girl like Lila?

How does the world look to Macy as she tries to find her daughter?

Can she see Lila at all?

What do you think will happen next? Why?

The Girl Who Knew No Fear — story and reading comprehension questions

Macy sat on a park bench, her eyes fixed on her daughter, Lila, who was halfway up the tallest slide in the playground.

The other children climbed slowly, cautious and careful. Lila didn't even pause. She weaved between them, half their size but twice as fast, pushing herself upward like it was the only thing that mattered.

"She's very brave," said a woman on the next bench. She wore sunglasses and had that polished look Macy had come to recognise. "Is she yours?"

Macy nodded. "Yes. She's mine."

The woman smiled politely. "You must be proud."

Macy gave a small smile in return, but said nothing.

Reading Comprehension Questions

Who are the main characters in the story?

How are they related?

Where does the story take place?

What is Macy doing?

What is Lila doing?

What comment does the woman on the bench make to Macy about Lila?

Pride wasn't quite the word.

Lila had been different since the day she was born. At first, Macy thought she was just bold. But when Lila ran into the sea at two years old, laughing while her skin turned blue with cold, and never cried from scrapes or falls, Macy started to worry.

The doctor had explained it during a long appointment in a white room with buzzing lights.

Something in the amygdala, he had said, vaguely. Macy had no idea what he meant then. She still wasn't sure.

"She has trouble processing fear," the doctor had said.

"And she may not feel pain in the normal way. You'll have to

keep a very close eye on her. More than most mothers.

Twenty-four seven, if you can manage.”

And that’s what she did.

Or tried to do.

Reading Comprehension Questions

What made Macy start to worry about Lila’s behaviour?

What two examples in the story describe Lila’s behaviour as a young child?

How did the doctor describe Lila’s condition?

What advice did the doctor give to Macy?

“Mum! Look!”

Macy blinked. Lila was now standing at the top of the slide, arms out like an acrobat, legs spread wide for balance.

Before Macy could speak, Lila launched herself down with a shout of joy, twisting as she went, and landed at the bottom, jumping up into a standing position like an Olympics gymnast, as if she’d trained for it all her life.

Gasps echoed from nearby parents.

Lila ran up to Macy, beaming.

“Did you see me, Mum?”

“Yes, darling,” Macy said, brushing a leaf from her daughter’s top. “I saw.”

Macy tried to resist checking how the other parents nearby reacted, but she could not.

Reading Comprehension Questions

What action does Lila perform on the slide?

How do nearby parents react when they see what Lila does?

What does Macy remove from Lila’s clothing?

Does Macy turn to look at the other parents?

Some mothers nearby gave her that look. The look that Macy knew only too well by now.

Tight smiles. A tilt of the head. The kind of look that says: What kind of mother lets her child do that?

But they didn't know Lila.

They couldn't.

"Can we get ice cream?" Lila asked, bouncing on her toes.

"Please?"

Macy stood and nodded. "Alright. But stay close."

They crossed the park toward the ice-cream van near the path by the road.

Cars sometimes came through the bend too fast, ignoring the 20km signs.

The ice-cream van was parked beside a hedge. A man in a green beanie served cones from a little window.

"Strawberry and bubblegum," Lila said, without thinking.

Reading Comprehension Questions

What kind of facial expressions does Macy notice in the other parents?

What does Lila want to eat?

Where do the two of them go?

Is the ice-cream man wearing a hat?

What flavour ice cream does Lila want?

What possible danger does the story hint at as they walk toward the ice-cream van?

Macy paid, and they sat down on a wooden bench. It was warm now, the sun soft on her back. She took a breath and allowed herself to relax, just for a moment.

Lila licked her cone and glanced up.

“Mum, do you remember when I climbed on top of the garage?”

Macy flinched. “Yes. I remember.”

“I wanted to see what the birds can see,” Lila said.

Macy nodded, saying nothing. She remembered too well. Lila had climbed out the upstairs window, balanced along the narrow ledge in just her socks and pyjamas, and leapt onto the neighbour's garage roof. The firefighter who rescued her had been polite, but his eyes had said everything.

Reading Comprehension Questions

Where do they sit to eat their ice creams?

What story does Lila recount?

Why did Lila climb onto the garage roof?

What was she wearing when she did this?

Who saved her?

“I didn’t fall though,” Lila said proudly.

“No. You didn’t,” Macy said, her voice tight.

“I liked it up there,” Lila added. “It was peaceful.”

She continued eating her ice cream, eyes following a bird flying overhead. A pigeon, grey and simple, but to Lila it might as well have been an eagle.

Suddenly, she stood up.

“Lila. Sit down. Finish your ice cream.”

“I just want to see where the bird goes.”

“Lila, no. Stay here.”

But Lila was already running, cone in one hand, the other stretched out like she was balancing on a wire.

“Lila!”

She turned and grinned. “It’s okay, Mum!”

Then she was off like a bolt of lightning.

Reading Comprehension Questions

Did Lila fall from the garage roof?

Why did she like it there?

What does Lila want to do when she sees the bird?

How does Macy react when Lila runs off?

Macy's heart skipped.

She got to her feet, her own cone slipping from her fingers and falling to the path.

"Lila!"

She ran, panic chasing through her nervous system. Lila was already near the hedge that bordered the small footpath. The trees blocked Macy's view. She could hear voices, a dog barking, a car engine.

"Lila!" Macy pushed through the hedge.

But there was no sign of her daughter.

Just the road. A car moving slowly around the bend. A

woman with shopping bags. A boy on a bike riding past. A patch of bubblegum-pink ice cream melting on the hot pavement.

Reading Comprehension Questions

What happens to Macy's ice-cream cone?

What prevents her from seeing clearly?

What can she hear?

Can Macy see her daughter?

What can Macy see by the road?

Macy turned in every direction.

Behind the ice-cream van.

Behind the bench.

Along the path.

Nowhere.

"LILA!"

A man looked over, startled. "Are you alright?"

Macy didn't answer. She kept turning, searching.

She ran back toward the hedge, pushed through the leaves again, came out the other side. Back into the park. Scanned the grass. The slide. The climbing frame.

Nothing.

No small girl in red sandals.

No dirt-stained T-shirt.

No cheeky grin.

“Lila...” Macy whispered, her voice thin. “Where are you?”

Reading Comprehension Questions

Does anyone help Macy?

How does the story describe Macy’s desperation as she searches?

Why is this moment especially dangerous for a girl like Lila?

The world was calm. Too calm. People strolled by. Children laughed on the swings. A dog chased a ball. Everything was normal.

Except it wasn't.

Macy couldn't see her daughter. There was no sign of her.

And when a girl who doesn't know fear runs into the world without looking back...

There's no telling where she might end up.

Reading Comprehension Questions

How does the world look to Macy as she tries to find her daughter?

Can she see Lila at all?

What do you think will happen next? Why?

Essential Vocabulary

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Cautious | Weaved | Polished |
| Scrapes | Appointment | Amygdala |
| Vaguely | Process | Resisted |
| Beaming | Tilt | Cone |
| Flinched | Grinned | Panic |
| Strolled | Rescued | Desperation |
| Blinked | Cheerful | Breath |
| Cries | Nervous | Slide |
| Recognise | Stared | Dropped |
| Flickered | Drenched | Remember |
| Hurried | Shook | Shouted |

Exercise

Write down all the words and phrases in your vocabulary notebook. Look in your dictionary and find the meaning of each word. Write the definition next to each word.

Then make up your own sentences using each word or phrase.

For example:

Cautious—*careful to avoid danger or mistakes.*

Weaved—*moved in and out or swayed back and forth in a particular pattern or direction.*

Example Sentences:

She was cautious about making a decision without more information.

The artist weaved colourful threads through the fabric to create a beautiful pattern.

By doing this exercise regularly, you'll improve your English skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

True or False?

Look at all the statements below. State whether they are true or false.

If a statement is false, correct it and make it true.

You can find all the answers at the end of the lesson plan.

Macy and Lila go to the park every Saturday.

Lila shows no fear, even when doing dangerous things.

Macy often tells Lila stories to help her fall asleep.

Lila once ran into the sea as a toddler without hesitation.

The doctor advised Macy to be less protective of Lila.

Lila climbs to the top of the slide and performs a stunt.

Other parents in the park cheer and clap for Lila's bravery.

Macy is embarrassed by the attention Lila's actions attract.

Lila wants chocolate and vanilla ice cream.

The ice-cream man is wearing a green beanie.

Lila was rescued from the garage roof by a neighbour.

Lila says she climbed the roof because she wanted to see

what the birds can see.

Macy always knows exactly where Lila is.

Lila runs off to follow a butterfly near the road.

Macy drops her ice-cream cone as she runs after Lila.

The road near the park is always quiet and safe.

Lila is described as a child who often cries when she gets hurt.

Macy sees a puddle of melted pink ice cream by the road.

A man offers to help Macy search for Lila.

The story ends with Macy finding Lila safe and sound.

What is the Correct Synonym?

Look at the table below.

Now match the words on the left with the correct synonym on the right.

A synonym is a word of similar meaning.

You can find all the answers at the end of the lesson plan.

| | |
|----------|------------|
| Brave | Slender |
| Cautious | Save |
| Proud | Usual |
| Normal | Noisy |
| Shout | Careful |
| Rescue | Calm |
| Nervous | Yell |
| Lean | Courageous |
| Loud | Pleased |
| Grin | Anxious |
| Peaceful | Leap |
| Jump | Smile |

What is the Correct Antonym?

Look at the table below.

Now match the words on the left with the correct antonym on the right.

An antonym is a word of opposite meaning.

You can find all the answers at the end of the lesson plan.

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| Brave | Fast |
| Calm | Tense |
| Slow | Disappeared |
| Jumped | Rude |
| Narrow | Frowned |
| Polite | Afraid |
| Relax | Landed |
| Smiled | Unsteady |
| Balanced | Agitated |
| Appeared | Wide |

Missing Words

Look at the table below.

| | | |
|----------|-----------|--------|
| brave | relax | hedge |
| grin | balance | tilt |
| cautious | whispered | launch |
| flinched | glance | buzz |

Now use each of the words above in the correct places in the sentences below.

You can find all the answers at the end of the lesson plan.

She gave a quick _____ at her watch and jumped up from the sofa.

We decided to _____ the rocket at noon to avoid the heavy winds.

Despite the danger, she made the _____ decision to enter the burning building and rescue the trapped dog.

The loud _____ of the alarm clock woke everyone in the house.

Don't forget to trim the _____ before it gets too wild.

The little girl gave me a wide _____ when I handed her the balloon.

When he saw the snake, he _____ and took a step back.

He tried to _____ on the edge of the beam, arms out like wings.

She _____ to me in class so the teacher wouldn't hear.

He sat back in the chair to _____ after a long day at work.

The dog was very _____ around new people and always stayed close to its owner.

She gave her head a small _____ as if to say she wasn't sure.

Words and Meanings

Look at the table of words below.

| | | |
|----------|----------|------------|
| fidgeted | clutch | motionless |
| stubborn | relieved | coward |
| edge | stumble | roar |
| courage | tremble | tighten |

Now match all the words above with the correct meaning below.

You can find all the answers at the end of the lesson plan.

To shake slightly because of fear, cold, or nervousness

To feel better after something difficult or unpleasant is over

To stay completely still, without moving

A person who is not brave and is afraid to face danger or pain

To walk or move unsteadily, as if about to fall

To move hands or body slightly, often from nervousness

To grip or hold something tightly

Brave behaviour in a dangerous or difficult situation

To make something more firm or less loose

A loud, deep sound, often made by animals or engines

Unwilling to change your opinion or decision

The outer or farthest part of something

Discussion Questions

Why do you think the girl was not afraid when others were?

Have you ever felt brave when everyone else was scared?

What happened?

What does courage mean to you? Is it always good to be brave?

Can a person be too brave? What are the risks?

Do you think the girl really had no fear, or was she hiding it?

If you were in the same town, would you have followed the girl? Why or why not?

What makes a person a “coward”? Do you think that’s always a fair word?

Do you think the girl was stubborn or just determined?

What’s the difference?

Have you ever done something dangerous just to prove a point?

What would you do if someone you cared about went into danger?

What kind of “beasts” (problems or fears) do people face in real life?

Why did the girl want to face the beast alone? Is this wise?

Do you think being “motionless” is a sign of fear or self-control?

How does society teach us to deal with fear?

What would make you feel relieved in a frightening situation?

Do you believe fear can be useful? Why or why not?

If fear disappeared from your life, what would you do differently?

How does this story relate to growing up and becoming independent?

Was the girl’s action wise or foolish? Can it be both?

What’s the difference between real danger and imagined fear?

Do you agree with the idea that we must “face our fears”? Why?

What kind of courage do you admire in other people?

How do people in your culture deal with fear? Are there any traditions or stories?

If you could talk to the girl after the story, what would you ask her?

Role Play

This is a role play activity.

Title: *Lila's Future—A Conversation Between the Mother and the Doctor*

Scene:

Lila's mother has come to speak to the doctor. She is worried about her daughter's strange lack of fear and wants to understand what it means for Lila's future.

Character 1: Lila's Mother

Your Goal:

Express your concern and confusion. Try to understand if something is wrong with Lila or if she's just different.

How You Feel:

Worried, emotional, protective, but open-minded.

What You Might Say:

- "She doesn't cry, she doesn't hesitate—how can a child grow up like that?"

- "I want to protect her, but how do you protect someone who walks into danger without blinking?"
- "Is it normal? Is there something wrong with her brain or her heart?"
- "What kind of life can she have if she can't even feel afraid?"

Character 2: The Doctor

Your Goal:

Help the mother understand Lila's condition. Offer comfort and a new way of thinking about fearlessness.

How You Feel:

Calm, thoughtful, kind, and insightful.

What You Might Say:

- "Fear is a teacher, but some are born without it. That doesn't make them broken."
- "Her mind is different, yes—but different doesn't mean damaged."
- "Maybe she's here to show us something about courage."
- "The world will challenge her, but she may be strong enough to face it."

Discussion Questions (after the role play):

- What do you think the mother really wants from the doctor?
- Do you think the doctor was helpful?
- Would you be worried if Lila were your child?
- Is fear always a bad thing?
- Can courage exist without fear?

Instructions:

- Work in pairs. Choose the roles you want to play.
- Read and prepare your parts for a few minutes.
- Perform for the class, or in small groups.
- Use the follow-up questions to start a class discussion.

Writing

This is a creative writing exercise.

Title: Continuing the Story of Lila

Background Recap:

Lila was born without fear. As a child, she did dangerous things with calm curiosity. Her mother worried. The doctor said Lila wasn't broken, just different. Now, Lila is growing older—and her world is about to change.

Your Task:

Continue the story.

Imagine what happens to Lila as she becomes a teenager or a young adult.

Write at least 200 words.

Ideas to Get You Started:

- Does Lila face a serious challenge?
- How do others react to her fearlessness as she grows up?

- Does she discover a new strength or weakness?
- Does something finally make her feel fear?
- How does her relationship with her mother change?

Write your story.

When you have finished writing your story, read it out loud in front of your classmates. Your classmates should give you some feedback.

Or you can hand the story in to your teacher. And they can give you a review.

Reading Comprehension Questions — Answers

Section 1: Park and Playground Scene

1. Who are the main characters in the story?

Macy and her daughter Lila.

2. How are they related?

Macy is Lila's mother.

3. Where does the story take place?

At a park with a playground.

4. What is Macy doing?

She is sitting on a park bench watching her daughter.

5. What is Lila doing?

She is climbing the tallest slide quickly and fearlessly.

6. What comment does the woman on the bench make to Macy about Lila?

She says Lila is very brave and asks if she is Macy's daughter.

Section 2: Macy's Concern About Lila

7. What made Macy start to worry about Lila's behaviour?

Lila showed no fear, even in dangerous situations, and didn't react to pain.

8. What two examples in the story describe Lila's

behaviour as a young child?

She ran into the cold sea at two years old and didn't cry from scrapes or falls.

9. How did the doctor describe Lila's condition?

The doctor said she had trouble processing fear and might not feel pain normally.

10. What advice did the doctor give to Macy?

He told Macy to keep a very close eye on Lila—more than most mothers—24/7, if possible.

Section 3: Lila's Slide Stunt

11. What action does Lila perform on the slide?

She stands at the top, spreads her arms, launches herself down, twists, and lands like a gymnast.

12. How do nearby parents react when they see what Lila does?

They gasp in surprise.

13. What does Macy remove from Lila's clothing?

She brushes a leaf off Lila's top.

14. Does Macy turn to look at the other parents?

Yes, she tries not to, but ends up checking their reactions.

Section 4: Ice Cream and Judgement

15. What kind of facial expressions does Macy notice in the other parents?

Tight smiles and head tilts that suggest judgment.

16. What does Lila want to eat?

Ice cream.

17. Where do the two of them go?

To the ice-cream van by the road.

18. Is the ice-cream man wearing a hat?

Yes, a green beanie.

19. What flavour ice cream does Lila want?

Strawberry and bubblegum.

20. What possible danger does the story hint at as they walk toward the ice-cream van?

Cars that sometimes speed around the bend near the path.

Section 5: Garage Roof Memory

21. Where do they sit to eat their ice creams?

On a wooden bench.

22. What story does Lila recount?

When she climbed on top of the garage.

23. Why did Lila climb onto the garage roof?

She wanted to see what birds can see.

24. What was she wearing when she did this?

Socks and pyjamas.

25. Who saved her?

A firefighter.

Section 6: Lila Runs Off Again

26. Did Lila fall from the garage roof?

No, she did not.

27. Why did she like it there?

It was peaceful.

28. What does Lila want to do when she sees the bird?
Follow it to see where it goes.

29. How does Macy react when Lila runs off?
She panics and tells her to stop, but Lila keeps running.

Section 7: Macy Loses Sight of Lila

30. What happens to Macy's ice-cream cone?
It falls from her hand onto the path.

31. What prevents her from seeing clearly?
Trees and a hedge block her view.

32. What can she hear?
Voices, a dog barking, and a car engine.

33. Can Macy see her daughter?
No, she cannot.

34. What can Macy see by the road?
A car, a woman with shopping bags, a boy on a bike, and melted pink ice cream.

Section 8: Macy's Desperation

35. Does anyone help Macy?
A man asks if she is alright, but no one helps her.

36. How does the story describe Macy's desperation as she searches?

She runs around in panic, calling out and searching everywhere, her voice growing thinner.

37. Why is this moment especially dangerous for a girl like Lila?

Because Lila doesn't feel fear and might unknowingly put

herself in serious danger.

Section 9: Final Reflections

38. How does the world look to Macy as she tries to find her daughter?

Calm and normal, but unreal because Macy knows something is terribly wrong.

39. Can she see Lila at all?

No, Lila is gone.

40. What do you think will happen next? Why?

(Open-ended — model response): Macy may call for help or run toward the road. The story ends in suspense, suggesting something terrible might have happened because of Lila's inability to feel fear.

True or False — Answers

These are the correct answers below.

Did you get them all right?

Macy and Lila are at the park, but it's not stated that they go every Saturday.

→ (False) *Macy and Lila spend time at the park on this particular day.*

Lila shows no fear, even when doing dangerous things.

→ (True)

Macy often tells Lila stories to help her fall asleep.

→ (False) *The story does not mention bedtime stories.*

Lila once ran into the sea as a toddler without hesitation.

→ (True)

The doctor advised Macy to be less protective of Lila.

→ (False) *The doctor advised Macy to keep a very close eye on Lila, twenty-four-seven.*

Lila climbs to the top of the slide and performs a stunt.

→ (True)

Other parents in the park cheer and clap for Lila's bravery.

→ (False) *Other parents gasp and give Macy disapproving looks.*

Macy is embarrassed by the attention Lila's actions attract.

→ (False) *Macy tries not to look at the other parents, but she can't help it.*

Lila wants chocolate and vanilla ice cream.

→ (False) *Lila wants strawberry and bubblegum ice cream.*

The ice-cream man is wearing a green beanie.

→ (True)

Lila was rescued from the garage roof by a neighbour.

→ (False) *Lila was rescued from the garage roof by a firefighter.*

Lila says she climbed the roof because she wanted to see what the birds can see.

→ (True)

Macy always knows exactly where Lila is.

→ (False) *Macy loses sight of Lila when she runs off.*

Lila runs off to follow a butterfly near the road.

→ (False) *Lila runs off to follow a bird near the road.*

Macy drops her ice-cream cone as she runs after Lila.

→ (True)

The road near the park is always quiet and safe.

→ (False) *The road is dangerous; cars sometimes come too fast around the bend.*

Lila is described as a child who often cries when she gets hurt.

→ (False) *Lila doesn't cry from scrapes or falls.*

Macy sees a puddle of melted pink ice cream by the road.

→ (True)

A man offers to help Macy search for Lila.

→ (False) *A man asks if Macy is alright, but does not offer help.*

The story ends with Macy finding Lila safe and sound.

→ (False) *The story ends with Macy still searching for Lila, not knowing where she is.*

What is the Correct Synonym — Answers

These are the correct answers below.

How many did you get right?

| | |
|----------|------------|
| Brave | Courageous |
| Cautious | Careful |
| Proud | Pleased |
| Normal | Usual |
| Shout | Yell |
| Rescue | Save |
| Nervous | Anxious |
| Lean | Slender |
| Loud | Noisy |
| Grin | Smile |
| Peaceful | Calm |
| Jump | Leap |

What is the Correct Antonym — Answers

These are the correct answers below.

Were you successful?

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| Brave | Afraid |
| Calm | Agitated |
| Slow | Fast |
| Jumped | Landed |
| Narrow | Wide |
| Polite | Rude |
| Relax | Tense |
| Smiled | Frowned |
| Balanced | Unsteady |
| Appeared | Disappeared |

Missing Words — Answers

These are the correct answers below.

Did you win?

She gave a quick **glance** at her watch and jumped up from the sofa.

We decided to **launch** the rocket at noon to avoid the heavy winds.

Despite the danger, she made the **brave** decision to enter the burning building and rescue the trapped dog.

The loud **buzz** of the alarm clock woke everyone in the house.

Don't forget to trim the **hedge** before it gets too wild.

The little girl gave me a wide **grin** when I handed her the balloon.

When he saw the snake, he **flinched** and took a step back.

He tried to **balance** on the edge of the beam, arms out like wings.

She **whispered** to me in class so the teacher wouldn't hear.

He sat back in the chair to **relax** after a long day at work.

The dog was very **cautious** around new people and always stayed close to its owner.

She gave her head a small **tilt** as if to say she wasn't sure.

Words and Meanings — Answers

These are the answers below.

Time to celebrate?

tremble—To shake slightly because of fear, cold, or nervousness

relieved—To feel better after something difficult or unpleasant is over

motionless—To stay completely still, without moving

coward—A person who is not brave and is afraid to face danger or pain

stumble—To walk or move unsteadily, as if about to fall

fidged—To move hands or body slightly, often from nervousness

clutch—To grip or hold something tightly

courage—Brave behaviour in a dangerous or difficult situation

tighten—To make something more firm or less loose

roar—A loud, deep sound, often made by animals or engines

stubborn—Unwilling to change your opinion or decision

edge—The outer or farthest part of something

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