



Lost

The waves crashed violently against the small lifeboat as twelve-year-old Ryan gripped the sides with frozen fingers. Rain hammered down from the black sky, soaking his clothes and stinging his eyes. Somewhere in the darkness, the fishing boat he had been travelling on had disappeared.

Only an hour earlier, Ryan had been laughing below deck while his uncle cooked dinner. Then the storm arrived. The sea had changed in minutes.

Huge waves slammed into the boat, throwing boxes across the deck. The engine groaned loudly before falling silent. Ryan still remembered the look on his uncle's face as the boat tilted sharply sideways.

“Get in the lifeboat. Now!”

Ryan had barely managed to climb inside before another wave crashed over the deck, tearing the small boat away into the darkness.

Now he was alone.

The wind howled around him like an angry animal. Every shadow in the sea looked enormous. Ryan tried not to think about what might be moving beneath the water.

His hands shook as he searched through the emergency supplies. One bottle of water. A torch with weak batteries. A packet of crackers. A whistle.

“That’s it?” he muttered.

The torch flickered once before dimming again.

Ryan swallowed hard. Panic began to rise inside his chest like a wave. He thought about home, about his mum probably waiting for a message that would never arrive. For a moment, he felt completely hopeless.

Then he noticed something tied beneath the seat.



A flare gun.

Ryan grabbed it quickly, his heart thumping with sudden hope. He checked the sky through the rain. The storm clouds were beginning to thin.

Maybe someone would see it.

Maybe he wasn't alone after all.



Before you answer, track your evidence in the text. Use the colour key to show which reading skill you are using. Star readers do not just find an answer. They prove it!



- Yellow = facts you can retrieve directly**
- Blue = vocabulary clues**
- Green = inference clues**
- Pink = quotations to support an answer**
- Purple = viewpoint or opinion**

Try to highlight only the most useful words or phrases, not whole paragraphs.

1 How did Ryan become separated from the fishing boat? Use information from the text to explain what happened.

2 The text says: "The torch flickered once before dimming again." What does the word "flickered" suggest about the torch?

3 What clues suggest that Ryan is beginning to panic? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

4 Find one quotation that makes the storm seem frightening and explain why the writer chose those words.

5 Ryan feels "completely hopeless." Do you think most people would react the same way in this situation? Explain your opinion using evidence from the text.

6 How does the writer build tension throughout the story?

Lost - Evidence Hunt



Writers often give the reader clues about how a character is feeling without saying it directly.

Read the text again and complete the evidence hunt below.

1

Emotion	Evidence	What does this suggest?
Fear		
Hopelessness		
Panic		
Determination		

2

Find 1 quote that shows danger.

Find 1 quote that creates tension.

Find 1 quote that gives the reader hope.

3

Choose one quotation from the story and explain:

- what method the writer uses
- what effect it creates on the reader

You could comment on:

- powerful verbs
- similes
- short sentences
- weather description
- emotions

Alone in the Jungle - A True Story

In 1981, a young man named Yossi Ghinsberg became lost in the Amazon rainforest after travelling with friends in Bolivia.

At first, the group believed the journey would be an exciting adventure. They planned to explore deep into the jungle with a guide and experience parts of the rainforest that few tourists had ever seen.

However, conditions quickly became dangerous.

Heavy rain soaked the forest day and night. The ground became thick with mud and rivers grew stronger and faster. Food supplies began to run low, and the group argued constantly about whether they should continue.

Eventually, the group split up.

Yossi suddenly found himself completely alone in one of the largest rainforests on Earth.



The jungle was filled with dangers. Insects crawled across his skin while strange noises echoed through the trees at night. He struggled to sleep because he was terrified that wild animals might attack him while he rested.

Each day became a battle to survive.

Yossi's feet became badly infected after walking through wet conditions for days. He searched desperately for food and clean water, but the rainforest made even simple tasks difficult. Sometimes he believed he heard voices calling for him through the trees, only to realise he was completely alone.

As the days passed, Yossi began losing hope.

He later admitted that the loneliness and fear were almost worse than the physical pain. At times, he felt certain he would never escape the jungle alive.



After nearly three weeks alone, Yossi finally heard the sound of a boat engine nearby.

Rescuers had found him.

Weak, exhausted and badly injured, Yossi survived the rainforest and later wrote a book about his experience. His true survival story has since inspired documentaries and films around the world.

Before you answer, track your evidence in the text. Use the colour key to show which reading skill you are using. Star readers do not just find an answer. They prove it!



- Yellow = facts you can retrieve directly**
- Blue = vocabulary clues**
- Green = inference clues**
- Pink = quotations to support an answer**
- Purple = viewpoint or opinion**

Try to highlight only the most useful words or phrases, not whole paragraphs.

1 Explain how conditions in the rainforest became increasingly dangerous for Yossi and his group.

The text says: "Yossi searched desperately for food and clean water."

2 What does the word "desperately" reveal about Yossi's physical and emotional condition?

3 What clues suggest that isolation affected Yossi mentally as well as physically? Use evidence from the text to support your ideas.

4 Find one quotation that makes the jungle seem threatening or overwhelming. Explain how the writer's language creates this impression.

5 Yossi later said that "the loneliness and fear were almost worse than the physical pain." Why do you think isolation can have such a powerful effect on people in survival situations?

6 How does the writer present Yossi's survival experience as both physically and emotionally challenging?

Mark Scheme



Lost

Question	Answer	Evidence to Highlight	Marks
1	<p>Ryan became separated after a violent storm hit the fishing boat. Huge waves crashed into it and Ryan's uncle told him to get into the lifeboat. Another wave then tore the lifeboat away from the main boat.</p> <p>Acceptable points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a storm hit the boat • waves crashed into/deck tilted • engine stopped working • uncle told him to get into the lifeboat • wave pulled the lifeboat away • Ryan ended up alone <p>Marks: 1 mark = simple retrieval 2 marks = developed explanation using evidence</p>	<p>"Huge waves slammed into the boat" "Get in the lifeboat. Now!" "another wave crashed over the deck" "tearing the small boat away into the darkness"</p>	2
2	<p>The word "flickered" suggests the torch was weak, unstable or close to stopping working completely.</p> <p>1 mark = basic understanding 2 marks = explanation of the effect</p>	<p>"The torch flickered once before dimming again."</p>	2
3	<p>The writer shows Ryan panicking through his physical reactions and thoughts. His hands shake, he swallows hard and begins to feel hopeless.</p> <p>1 mark = one clue identified 2 marks = explanation with evidence 3 marks = developed inference using multiple clues</p>	<p>"His hands shook" "Panic began to rise inside his chest like a wave." "he felt completely hopeless" "Ryan swallowed hard."</p>	3
4	<p>The quotation makes the storm sound dangerous and uncontrollable. Powerful verbs like "hammered" and "slammed" create tension and fear.</p> <p>1 mark = quotation selected 2 marks = quotation + simple explanation 3 marks = developed language analysis</p>	<p>"The waves crashed violently" "Rain hammered down" "The wind howled around him like an angry animal." "Huge waves slammed into the boat"</p>	3
5	<p>Most people would probably panic because Ryan is alone during a dangerous storm with very limited supplies.</p> <p>1 mark = opinion 2 marks = opinion supported with evidence 3 marks = thoughtful developed response</p>	<p>"completely hopeless" "His hands shook" "Panic began to rise inside his chest" "Only one bottle of water"</p>	3
6	<p>The writer builds tension through dangerous weather, powerful vocabulary and Ryan's fearful thoughts. Short sentences like "Now he was alone" make the story feel dramatic and tense.</p> <p>1-2 marks = simple comments 3-4 marks = clear explanation with evidence 5-6 marks = detailed analysis using multiple quotations and writer's methods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Rain hammered down" • "Now he was alone." • "Every shadow in the sea looked enormous." • "The torch flickered once" • "Maybe he wasn't alone after all." 	6

Mark Scheme



Lost - Evidence Hunt

Emotion	Evidence	What does this suggest?
Fear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Every shadow in the sea looked enormous.” • “Ryan swallowed hard.” • “The wind howled around him like an angry animal.” 	Ryan feels frightened and unsafe.
Hopelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • he felt completely hopeless” • “probably waiting for a message that would never arrive” 	Ryan believes he may not survive or be rescued.
Panic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “His hands shook” • “Panic began to rise inside his chest like a wave.” 	Ryan is losing control of his emotions and becoming overwhelmed.
Determination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Ryan grabbed it quickly” • “He checked the sky through the rain.” 	Ryan has not given up and is still trying to survive.

Find 1 quote that shows danger.

“Huge waves slammed into the boat”
 “Rain hammered down”
 “The sea had changed in minutes”

Find 1 quote that creates tension.

“Now he was alone.”
 “Every shadow in the sea looked enormous.”
 “The torch flickered once”

Find 1 quote that gives the reader hope.

“A flare gun.”
 “Maybe someone would see it.”
 “Maybe he wasn’t alone after all.”

Look for some of the following when children answer the writer’s methods challenge:

- Have they included a quotation from the text?
- Have they identified a method correctly?
 (For example: simile, powerful verb, short sentence, descriptive language)
- Have they explained the effect of the writer’s choices?
- Have they commented on how the reader might feel?
- Have they used evidence to support their ideas?
- Have they explained specific words rather than just retelling the story?

A stronger KS3 answer will:

- zoom in on key words
- explain why the writer chose them
- discuss atmosphere or tension
- link ideas back to the reader’s emotions

Example of a developed response:

The writer uses the simile “like an angry animal” to make the storm seem alive and dangerous. This creates tension because the reader feels that Ryan is trapped and powerless against the weather.

Mark Scheme

Alone in the Jungle - A True Story

Question	Answer	Evidence to Highlight	Marks
1	<p>Conditions became more dangerous because the weather worsened, food became limited and travelling through the rainforest became harder. The difficult conditions also caused arguments within the group.</p> <p>Marks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 mark = one danger identified 2 marks = several dangers explained using evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Heavy rain soaked the forest day and night.” “The ground became thick with mud” “rivers grew stronger and faster” “Food supplies began to run low” “the group argued constantly” 	2
2	<p>The word “desperately” suggests Yossi was exhausted, frightened and struggling to survive. It shows he urgently needed help and basic supplies.</p> <p>Marks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 mark = basic meaning identified 2 marks = explanation of emotional/physical condition 3 marks = developed explanation of the word’s effect 	<p>“Yossi searched desperately for food and clean water.”</p>	3
3	<p>The writer suggests isolation affected Yossi mentally because he imagined hearing voices and began losing hope. He became emotionally overwhelmed by loneliness and fear.</p> <p>Marks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 mark = one clue identified 2 marks = explanation with evidence 3 marks = developed inference using multiple quotations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Sometimes he believed he heard voices” “only to realise he was completely alone” “Yossi began losing hope” “the loneliness and fear were almost worse than the physical pain” 	3
4	<p>The writer uses frightening descriptions and powerful vocabulary to make the jungle feel dangerous and overwhelming.</p> <p>Marks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 mark = quotation selected 2 marks = simple explanation 3 marks = developed language analysis 4 marks = detailed explanation of language and effect on reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “strange noises echoed through the trees” “terrified that wild animals might attack” “one of the largest rainforests on Earth” “Each day became a battle to survive.” 	4
5	<p>Isolation can affect people powerfully because humans rely on support, safety and communication. Being alone for long periods can increase fear, hopelessness and panic.</p> <p>Marks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 mark = opinion given 2 marks = opinion supported with evidence 3 marks = thoughtful developed response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “completely alone” “began losing hope” “the loneliness and fear” “he felt certain he would never escape” 	3
6	<p>The writer presents the experience as physically challenging through injuries, hunger and exhaustion. It is also emotionally challenging because Yossi becomes isolated, fearful and hopeless.</p> <p>1-2 marks = simple comments 3-4 marks = Clear explanation of physical and emotional challenges using quotations. 5-6 marks = Detailed analysis of methods, emotions and effects on the reader using multiple quotations.</p> <p>A stronger KS3 answer will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use several quotations explain both physical and emotional difficulties zoom in on important words explain how the reader is made to feel discuss writer’s methods such as powerful verbs or emotional language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “feet became badly infected” “searched desperately for food” “began losing hope” “the loneliness and fear were almost worse than the physical pain” “battle to survive” 	6

Mark Scheme



Comparing Survival Experiences

Feature	Ryan - Lost	Yossi - Alone in the Jungle
How they feel	scared, hopeless, panicked	isolated, fearful, hopeless
Main Danger	storm and the sea	rainforest and isolation
Evidence of fear	“His hands shook”	“terrified that wild animals might attack”
Evidence of hope	“A flare gun”	“heard the sound of a boat engine”
How isolation affects them	alone in lifeboat	alone in rainforest

Ryan faces immediate danger from:

- violent weather
- drowning
- being stranded at sea

Yossi faces:

- long-term survival challenges
- infection
- hunger
- exhaustion
- loneliness

Stronger answers may:

- compare physical vs emotional danger
- discuss setting differences
- explain how danger changes over time

What stronger answers may include Ideas:

- sea feels unpredictable and immediate
- jungle feels isolating and relentless
- both characters experience fear and hopelessness
- writers use setting to create tension
- both stories include moments of hope

A strong KS3 comparison answer will:

- compare both texts throughout
- use quotations from both stories
- explain the effect on the reader
- discuss writer's methods
- explore similarities and differences clearly
- use comparative words such as:
 - similarly
 - however
 - in contrast
 - both writers
 - whereas

A more developed response will:

- zoom in on key words
- explain why the writer chose certain language
- discuss atmosphere and tension
- support opinions with evidence from both texts

1-2 marks = Simple opinion with limited evidence.

3-4 marks =

Clear comparison using quotations from one or both texts.

5-6 marks =

Developed comparison explaining methods and effects on the reader.

7-8 = Detailed analytical response with thoughtful comparison, embedded evidence and discussion of writer's methods.

Tips for Parents



1. Encourage evidence-based answers

Ask your child:

“What in the text makes you think that?”

This helps children move beyond guessing and develop analytical reading skills.

2. Focus on explaining, not just spotting

Finding a quotation is only the first step.

Encourage children to explain:

- why the quotation is important
- what it suggests
- how it affects the reader

3. Discuss unfamiliar vocabulary

KS3 texts often contain more challenging words.

Instead of immediately giving definitions, ask:

- What clues are around the word?
- Does the word sound positive or negative?
- What might the character be feeling?

4. Encourage full sentence answers

Short answers are common at first.

Try encouraging children to:

- answer in full sentences
- include quotations
- explain their ideas clearly

Sentence starters can really help.

5. Talk about the reader's feelings

A key KS3 skill is understanding the effect of the writer's choices.

Ask:

- How does this make the reader feel?
- Why did the writer choose that word?
- What atmosphere is being created?

6. Comparison is a major secondary skill

When reading two texts, encourage children to look for:

- similarities
- differences
- different viewpoints
- different ways writers create tension

Using phrases like:

- similarly
- however
- in contrast
- can help structure answers.

7. Praise thoughtful ideas

At KS3, there is not always one perfect answer.

A thoughtful explanation supported with evidence is often more important than getting every detail “right.”