



You could see the herd, unaware of your presence, grazing beyond the line of trees where you stood. You reached into your backpack, withdrew an arrow and placed it in the bow. You tracked the deer with your gaze.

“Dad!” Etta whispered. “I’ve got a clean shot!”. This was your moment to prove you were a serious hunter, to show Etta that you were better than her. You drew back the bow with your hand and released. The reindeer scattered. You’d missed.

“You rushed it!” hissed Dad. You’d blown your chance and Dad was cross. You lowered your head.

“Why can’t you just do as you’re told?” said Etta. You were about to answer her back when Dad beckoned you both over to where he had spotted the herd again through the trees.

“Spread out so we can ambush them from all sides. Spears out. Go with your sister - *don’t* leave her,” Dad warned.

1

What does the writer mean by “*You tracked the deer with your gaze*”?

2

Find and **copy** a word that tells us that the reindeer ran off in all directions.

3

Why was Etta whispering?

4

“*You rushed it!*” hissed Dad.

In this sentence, the word *hissed* is closest in meaning to.... Tick **one**.

whispered gently whistled whispered angrily wheezed



You stalked behind Etta through the long grass, spear raised, heart thumping. The sound of cracking twigs broke the quiet.

“Is that Spark?” Etta whispered, glaring back at you over her shoulder.

“Get hold of that dog! Quick! Before he scares the herd away,” breathed Dad through clenched teeth. You lunged to grab Spark, but he was too fast. Startled, the herd stampeded away. Dad’s face threatened to erupt.

“That’s it. They’re gone. We’ll never find another herd now. How did that dog know where we were?” he raged.

“I think I know,” said Etta, holding up the jar of berries that she must have sneaked out of your pocket without you noticing. She almost looked pleased with herself when she saw how mad Dad was with you. Your head dropped even further as the hunting party trudged off in search of a suitable spot to set up camp for the night.

5

How did Etta know Spark was there **before** she saw her?

6

Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Etta was pleased to see Spark.		
The herd was frightened by the dog.		
Dad was hopeful that you would find more deer to hunt.		
Etta saw a snake on the ground.		
It didn't bother you that Dad was annoyed.		



The least you could do was light a fire. You rubbed kindling to create a spark then added moss from your bag to feed the flame. Before long you had a roaring fire over. It was dark and the smell of roasting meat excited Spark. She began to howl.

“Shut that dog up!” snapped Dad. But you heard movement in the woods nearby. Eyes gleamed in the shadows. Wolves!

“We’re surrounded! Quick! Everyone defend the meat!” yelled Dad. You grabbed a flaming branch to fend off the wolf heading your way, but it sprang onto you, pinning you to the ground. You scabbled around desperately and, as luck would have it, found a club in reach. Whack! You hit the wolf and this time it retreated with a yelp.

“Get out of here, we won’t make it together. Etta, the spring, get to the spring!” yelled Dad as he ran away. When you tried to call after him, only a splutter came out, but then you felt strong arms behind you scoop you back up onto your feet. Etta!

7 *The least you could do was light a fire.*

Explain what the words *the least you could do* show about how you felt.

8 Give **two** examples from the text of materials used to start a fire.

1. _____

2. _____

9 How did you manage to frighten the wolf away?
