

Passage A: *In this extract Johan Potter describes a bear attack as he and his daughter Jenna trekked through Glacier National Park, Montana USA.*

A hike into horror

As we made our way along the side of the cliff, we fell silent, lost in the sounds of the wind and the water, the beauty of the moment. Ahead of us were the magnificent glaciers. A ribbon of water cascaded into the forest below. A river flowed into the turquoise stillness of the Lake. We walked for a further ten minutes, Jenna had gone ahead. I was relaxed and enjoying the much-needed break from work when I looked up and saw Jenna was running back toward me. She was yelling something, but I wasn't sure what.

Then I saw it. The open mouth, the tongue, the teeth. Jenna ran right Past me, and it struck me: 400 pounds of lightning. A grizzly bear. It had me by my left thigh. My mind started racing: thoughts of Jenna, thoughts of fighting, thoughts of escaping. The bear jerked me back and forth like a rag doll. But strangely, I felt no pain, just disbelief. It bit into me again and again, its jaw like a sharp vice, stopping at nothing until teeth hit bone. Then came the claws, rising like shiny knife blades, long and stark.

The bear kept pounding into me. I had to break away. To my right was the rock face of the mountain, to my left a sheer drop. Slightly behind me, however, and 20 feet below the trail, a patch of bramble grew on a small ledge jutting from the cliff. I knew it would hurt, but at least it wouldn't kill me. So like a rugby player going in for a tackle, I dived for that bramble patch.

The landing rattled me, but I was OK. My right eye was bleeding, but I had no time to think about that. Jenna was now alone with the bear. She screamed. I yelled at her to come down. She never heard me. She was falling, arms and legs flailing, like a puppet cut from its strings, striking the rocky cliff, then nothing for seconds before she landed hard.


Though Jenna did not hear me, the bear did. It looked over the cliff and pounced. I have never seen anything move so fast in my life. I tucked into a fetal position. The bear fell upon me, clawing and biting at my back. My backpack protected me, and my mind started racing again.

I turned, swung to my right and let myself go. Only this time there wasn't a bramble patch to break my fall. It was a straight drop to where Jenna had landed, and instead of taking the bear away from her, as I had hoped, I was taking the bear to her.

Q1: Read lines 1 to 29 of Source A.

Choose four statements below which are TRUE.

1. Initially, everything was calm.
2. The bear got Jenna first.
3. It got Johan by his leg.
4. The bear flung Johan in the air.
5. Johan didn't think of escape; he knew he couldn't.
6. Johan felt no pain.
7. A bramble bush broke Johan's fall.

Seven empty orange ovals are arranged vertically, corresponding to the seven statements in the list. Each oval is intended for a student to mark a statement as true or false.

Source B: 'The day I survived a grizzly bear attack' by Guy Grieve

In this passage, the author - Guy Grieve – describes an encounter he had with a black bear while he was staying at a log cabin in Alaska while writing a book.

You never forget a close encounter with a bear. They can approach slowly, sedately, stealthily, but once they are upon you, it is one of the most terrifying experiences you are ever likely to have. Forget the cuddly creature you snuggled up to as a child; the real thing is a 70-stone killing machine which can move with devastating, explosive speed. A few years ago I lived in a tiny log cabin in the wilderness of Alaska for a book I was writing. During that year, I faced every kind of danger, from starvation to excruciating cold – but none was as downright terrifying as my encounters with the black and grizzly bears that were the undoubted masters of the dark sub-arctic forests I called home. 5

Of all the meetings, my first was by far the most frightening. I was bathing in the river after a day chopping wood for the cabin I was building. I had just moved into the fast-moving water and was happily brushing my teeth when an unexpected movement caught my eye upstream. I pulled myself up on to a tree trunk to take a closer look. And my heart jumped into my mouth! A huge black bear had waded up to its shoulders into the river and was straining to get a better look at me. I saw it lift its vast head to sniff the air, then –catching a whiff of me – turn and bound out of the water at a surprising pace. 10 15

Initially, I felt relieved – until I saw that it was trying to outflank me along the shore, its small, eager eyes fixed on me all the time. I was lucky enough to have been armed – though my gun was on the shore, far out of reach. Knowing it was my only chance of survival, I crept slowly towards the shore, where my rifle hung from an upturned root. All the while, the bear kept coming – waving his nose around in search of my scent – bears' eyesight is very poor, so they rely on smell – but unable to get a really good sniff as I was downwind. This bought me valuable time. I loaded my rifle with a shivering hand and readied myself for whatever might come – which turned out to be a full-blown attack. 20 25

Finally catching a good whiff of me, and deciding I really was prey, this huge killer dropped to all fours and began to bound towards me along the river bank at full tilt. As long as I live, I will never forget the sight of that powerful animal charging towards me, its nostrils flared and its teeth bared. Like many others, I had made the mistake of assuming that bears are slow and lumbering. I was wrong. This bear moved with the speed and agility of a cat – and I had only a couple of rounds with which to stop him. 30

Suddenly, however, he veered sideways and disappeared into the scrub – and I lowered the rifle, light-headed with relief. But then I heard a crashing within the bush. He was coming at me now through the thick undergrowth. 35

Q2. Write a summary of the difference between the two accounts. Aim to write 100-150 words.

Source A		Source B
	Form	
	Audience	
	Purpose	
	Language features	

Q3. This extract is from source A

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Q3. How does the writer use language to shock the reader?

Language feature	evidence	effect
descriptive vocabulary		
Sentence types		
Punctuation		