A Fright on Carpenter's Peak

I have been a park ranger at Carpenter's Peak State Park in North Carolina for over ten years. One beautiful day last May, I had the day off from work. I decided to hike up Carpenter's Peak. Since I did not have to guide any visitors that day, I had the trails all to myself. Because I keep myself in good shape, the hike was easy for me. The views along the way were magnificent, so beautiful that they took my breath away. Once in a while, I stopped to eat a light snack and drink some water. At the top of the peak, I lingered by the side of the trail to appreciate and enjoy the beauty of nature.

After I started back down the mountain, the wind became stronger. "A storm might be coming," I said to myself. Suddenly, out of the corner of my eye, I saw something move in the trees. I slowed down to look, and then I froze! A mountain lion, also known as a cougar, stared back at me through the branches above my head. Over the years, I have heard stories about cougars roaming the park, but I had never seen one, until this moment. My legs began to shake, and I backed away. I only had a pocketknife for protection. "What can I do," I thought, "run, or hide?" When I looked up again, the cougar was gone. My heart pounded as I moved quickly to the side of the trail to get out of sight. All of a sudden, the cougar appeared from behind a tree directly in front of me. The animal then let out a horrible growl, showing its huge teeth.

In a flash, the cougar was on top of me! I grabbed my pocketknife and swung at its face, but this did not scare it away. It grabbed my head with its teeth and scraped my face with its claws. "I'm going to die," I thought. I was weak and badly cut. To my surprise, the cougar raised its head and sniffed the air. Just as quickly as it appeared, the powerful cougar was gone! It was nowhere in sight. Sometime later, a group of hikers found me and rushed me to the hospital. Although I needed eighty-nine stitches, I did not care. I was grateful to be alive!

1. What is the story mostly about?

a. How hikers save the life of a park ranger

b. How a park ranger spends his day off

c. How a park ranger survives an attack by a cougar

d. How a park ranger performs his job.

2. Which details from the story best supports the main idea?

a. The park ranger stops to enjoy the beautiful view.

b. The park ranger thinks a storm might be coming

c. The park ranger grabs his pocketknife and swings it at the cougar

d. The cougar lets out a growl.

3. Why did the park ranger decide to go for a walk by himself?

a. He had the day off from work.

b. No one wanted to hike with him.

c. The park was closed for the day.

d. The trails have some beautiful views.

4. Which fact supports the conclusion that cougars can be dangerous?

a. Cougars can climb trees.

b. Cougars roam the park.

c. A cougar attacked a park ranger.

d. The ranger was rescued by a group of hikers.

5. You can infer (guess) that the park ranger could not escape the cougar because

a. The cougar was faster and more powerful

b. The park ranger's feet were sore

c. The cougar had bigger teeth

d. The park ranger was out of shape

6. What happened after the park ranger started back down the mountain?

a. He decided to climb Carpenter's Peak

b. He had something to eat and drink

c. He saw a cougar

d. A group of hikers took him to the hospital

7. Which of the following statements is an opinion?

a. The main character had been a park ranger for ten years

b. Carpenter's Peak is located in a state park.

c. Cougars hate humans and will always attack them.

d. The cougar attacked the park ranger.

8. The park ranger did not worry about cougars when he hiked because

a. He enjoyed hiking by himself.

b. He liked to take risks.

c. He had never seen a cougar in the park.

d. He always had other people with him.

9. From the facts in the history, you can draw the conclusion that

a. There are many cougar attacks in the park

b. The park will close because of the attack

c. A cougar lives in the park

d. Strong storms are common in the park

10. "A Fright on Carpenter's Peak" is best described as

a. A nonfiction story

b. Folktale

c. A made up, or fictional, story

d. A fable

11. In the story, the ranger lingers by the side of the trail to *appreciate* and enjoy the beauty of nature. The word *appreciate* means

a. Dislike

b. Value

c. Disapprove

d. Worship