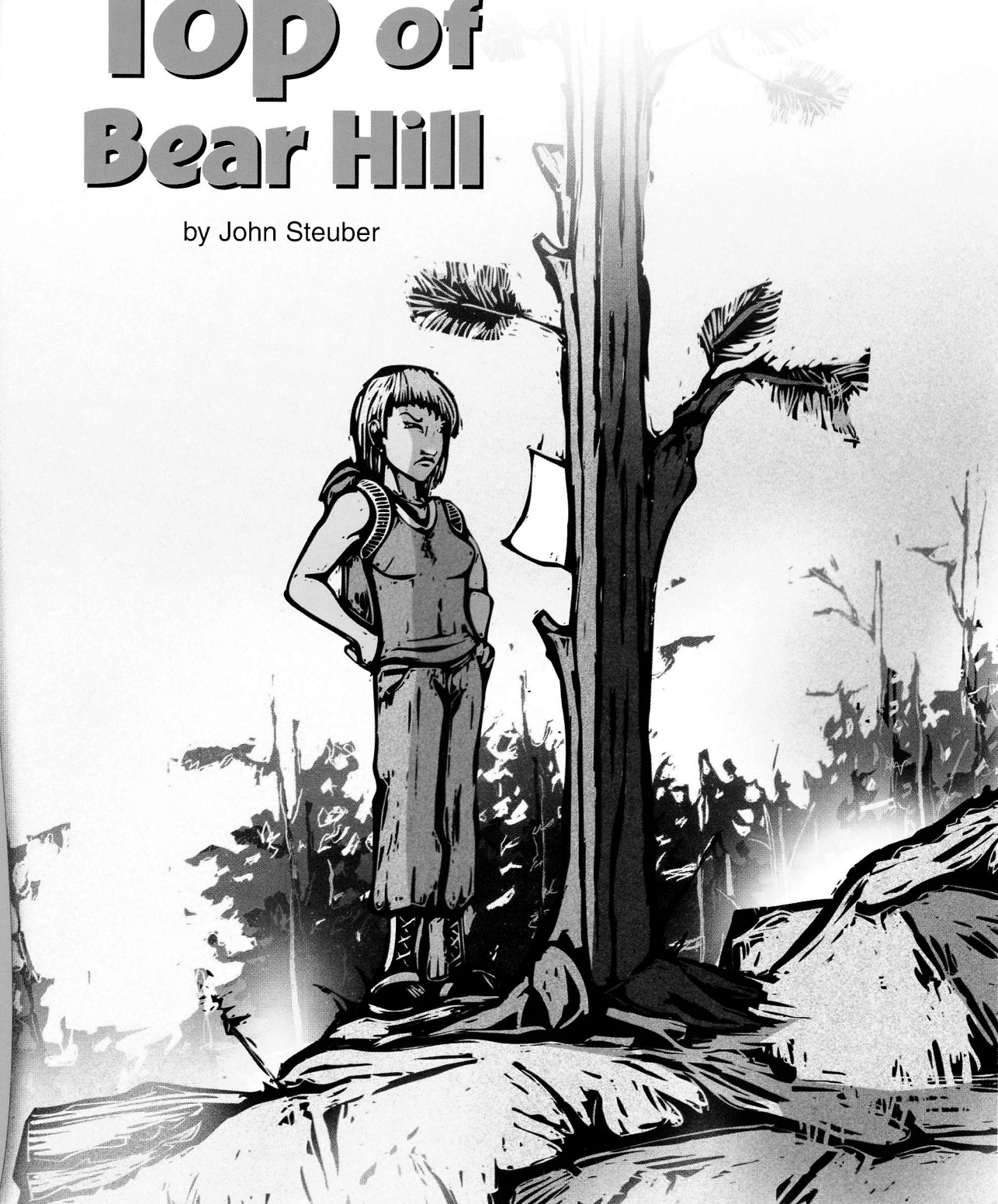


The Top of Bear Hill

by John Steuber



Joyce and Ellen decided to climb Bear Hill. They would try it tomorrow. It was a big hill. And it was hard to climb.

"I don't think you'll get to the top," Joyce said. "You're too lazy and slow." Ellen just grinned.

That night, Joyce went to bed early. *I'll wake up before Ellen does, she thought. I'll climb it by myself.*

The next morning, Joyce got up while Ellen was still asleep. She started climbing Bear Hill. At times, the hill almost seemed to go straight up. Twice she almost fell. She was afraid to look down. It seemed so far to the ground.

But finally she reached the top. She gave a big yell. Then, she saw a note pinned to a tree. The note read:

Hi Joyce,

I hope you liked your climb. I climbed Bear Hill before I went to bed last night. It was hard work, but I made it.

Ellen

At first, Joyce was angry. Then she decided not to be angry. After all, both of them had made it. She went down the hill to find Ellen.

COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.

- 1 This story is about
 - a** a girl who tried to trick a friend but got tricked herself.
 - b** two good friends who climbed a hill together.
- 2 Joyce and Ellen each decided
 - a** to climb Bear Hill at night.
 - b** to get to the top first.
- 3 Ellen left a note for Joyce because she wanted
 - a** Joyce to know where to meet her.
 - b** to show Joyce she'd been there first.

4 Joyce was angry when she read the note because Ellen had

- a** been there first.
 - b** not met her that morning.
- 5 When Joyce finds Ellen, they will most likely be
- a** mad at each other.
 - b** friends again.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B A contraction is a short way of writing words. An apostrophe (') shows where letters are left out.

you'll is made from *you will*

it'll is made from *it will*

Say the contraction for each pair of words. Write the contraction.

- 1 we will
- 2 they will
- 3 it will
- 4 I will
- 5 she will

C Read the words you wrote. Which one best fits in each sentence below? Write the word.

- 6 Joyce says _____ be fun to climb Bear Hill.
- 7 They both say _____ climb Bear Hill in the morning.
- 8 "Tomorrow, _____ climb Bear Hill," Joyce told Ellen.
- 9 *I think _____ try it tonight,* thought Ellen.
- 10 *Then _____ know I'm not lazy,* Ellen thought.

THINK ABOUT IT

D Read the sentences. Look at the pronoun in **bold type**. Which answer tells you what the pronoun stands for? Write *a* or *b*.

- 1 Joyce didn't think Ellen could do it. "**You** are too lazy," Joyce said.
a Joyce
b Ellen
- 2 Joyce didn't want Ellen to win. *I will surprise her*, she thought.
a Joyce
b Ellen
- 3 Joyce got up before Ellen. **She** wanted to climb the hill alone.
a Joyce
b Ellen
- 4 Joyce's mother listened to Joyce's story. **She** said, "You were right not to be angry."
a Joyce
b Joyce's mother
- 5 Ellen showed Joyce that **she** wasn't lazy.
a Joyce
b Ellen

E Read each story. Write *a* or *b* to answer each question.

Joyce got up early. Ellen turned her alarm off and rolled over. Joyce put on her shoes and coat.

- 6 What did Joyce do next?
a Went outside
b Wrote a letter
- 7 What did Ellen do next?
a Had breakfast
b Kept sleeping
- 8 How did you know what they did?
a Joyce put on her shoes and coat. Ellen stayed in bed.
b Joyce stayed in bed. Ellen got out of bed.

Joyce climbed down the hill. She was hot. She wanted some water.

- 9 What did Joyce do next?
a Had something to eat
b Had something to drink
- 10 How did you know what she did?
a She was hot and wanted water.
b She climbed down the hill.