

The Discovery

As it had done ever since their arrival three days ago, the sun blazed down **relentlessly**, making the midday heat almost **unbearable**. Ben and Rachel were struggling with the Egyptian heat and were trying to think of something to do that would not make them even hotter! On the orders of his boss at the Daily Herald, the children's father has been sent to the Valley of the Kings to cover the exciting story of the recent discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb. He thought it would be an **educational** trip for the children and brought them along. However, the children were bored as their father had to **attend** so many meetings. Playing outside in this dry, dusty heat was not an **option**!

"Did you see Dad's photographs of Tutankhamen's treasure?" Rachel asked her brother. "There were wonderful jewels and an amazing death mask!"

"I wonder if we will get a chance to see them in real life - I certainly hope so!" Ben responded.

"What shall we do now?" Rachel wondered "It's too hot to go out far."

Ben answered her excitedly, "I saw some little tunnels down near where Howard Carter found the entrance to Tutankhamen's tomb. Shall we go and explore?"

Ten minutes later, Rachel and Ben were crawling along the narrowest of tunnels with sandy dust falling into their faces. They could only see about a metre ahead of themselves with the aid of their torches. "I don't like this!" Rachel squealed **anxiously**, "Let's go back!"

"Hold on!" Ben whispered suddenly, "I've found something!"

He pulled out an object wrapped in a linen parcel and they both **scurried** back out into the daylight to get a better view.

"Wow!" they both exclaimed together on seeing the **exquisite** scarab **pendant** studded with jewels that was before them.

"I think it may be from Tutankhamen's tomb. Remember Dad told us about tomb raiders who stole **valuables** from the tombs of important people? It may be part of their haul! Let's take it to show Dad. There may be an ice cream in this for us!"

The children were indeed lucky and got their ice creams. The pendant had been stolen from Tutankhamen's tomb. It turned out to be a really valuable and of great historical **significance**. Ben and Rachel's father said that maybe they should come on all of his **assignments**!

Questions

1. Have you read any other stories set in the past?
2. Find three adjectives that describe the heat in the first paragraph.
3. Why did the children's father think the trip would be educational?
4. What did Rachel and Ben take into the tunnel to help them see?
5. Why do you think the Rachel was feeling anxious in the tunnel?
6. Where would you be likely to go now to see a pendant from Tutankhamen's tomb?
7. List three words that have been used instead of "said" in the text.
8. Describe the object that the children found in the tunnel.
9. How do you think Rachel and Ben were feeling at the end of the story?
10. How do you think their father felt and why?
11. Why were the children given ice creams?

Vocab 1

Write the meaning of each of these words.

1. relentlessly
2. unbearable
3. educational
4. attend
5. option
6. anxiously
7. scurried
8. exquisite
9. valuables
10. pendant
11. significance
12. assignment

Vocab 2

Use a dictionary, thesaurus or book to find alternatives to the following words:

1. bangle
2. meddle
3. petrified
4. tomb raider
5. worship

Choose three of the words above and write a sentence which includes the word.