

The Wolves of Willoughby Chase

The Wolves of Willoughby Chase is set in a fictional version of nineteenth-century England, where people are terrorised by wolves. The novel follows Bonnie and Sylvia's struggles against their cruel guardian, Miss Slighcarp. In this extract, the girls encounter a pack of wolves...

Arrived at the top of the hill, Bonnie stood still and, as it seemed to Sylvia, wasted precious moments while she glanced keenly about her through the rapidly thickening snowstorm.

5 'Ah!' she cried presently. 'The temple of Hermes! We must go this way.' She tugged Sylvia at a run down the slope and across a wide intervening stretch of open ground towards a little pillared pavilion that stood on an artificial knoll against some dark trees. They had now put the river between them and the cry of the wolves, which was comforting, but Sylvia was dismayed to see that Bonnie was once more leading her away from the house.

'Where are we going, Bonnie?' she panted, fighting bravely to keep up.

10 'I have a friend who lives in the woods,' Bonnie returned. 'I only hope he is not away. Let us rest a moment here.'

They stood struggling to get their breath in the temple of Hermes, which was no more than a roof supported on slender columns.

15 'Oh, Bonnie, look, look!' Sylvia cried in uncontrollable alarm, pointing back the way they had come. Through the dusk they could just distinguish two small black dots at the top of the slope, which were soon joined by several others. After a moment all these dots began coursing swiftly down the hillside in their direction.



'There is not a moment to be lost,' Bonnie said urgently. 'Make haste, make haste!'

20 Half-leading, half-supporting the exhausted Sylvia, she urged her on through the deepening wood. Here Bonnie seemed to know her way almost by instinct. She passed from tree to tree, scanning them, apparently, for signs invisible to her cousin.

25 'Here we are!' she exclaimed in a tone of unutterable thankfulness, and, to Sylvia's astonishment, she put her fingers to her lips and gave vent to a long, clear whistle. More surprising still, she was instantly answered by another whistle which seemed to come from the very ground beneath their feet.

A clear, ringing voice called, 'Here, Miss Bonnie! Here, quick!'

30 Sylvia found a lithe, bright-eyed boy beside her, helping her on. Taller than Bonnie, he was dressed entirely in skins. He wore a fur cap, carried a bow, and had a sheaf of arrows slung over his shoulder.

An extract from *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* by Joan Aiken.

1

Fill in the gap in the sentence below:

This extract is written in the person.

1 mark

2

Write down a phrase from lines 1-2 which shows that Bonnie and Sylvia are in a hurry.

.....

1 mark

3

In your own words, describe how Sylvia feels when Bonnie leads her away from the house. Why does she feel this way?

.....

.....

2 marks

4

In line 10, Bonnie mentions that her friend might be away. How does this add to the suspense in the extract?

.....

.....

1 mark

5

What are the "small black dots" in lines 16-17?

.....

1 mark

6

How do you think Sylvia feels when the "bright-eyed boy" appears in lines 27-28? Explain your answer.

.....

.....

2 marks

7

Who do you think is in control in this extract, Bonnie or Sylvia? How can you tell?

.....

.....

2 marks

Total
out of 10