

## *The Not So Abominable Snowman*

1. Of all the places to take me on my summer vacation, Dad chose the cold, steep mountains of Nepal. I guess that's one of the downfalls of being the son of an explorer. He loves snow, danger, and adventure. Me, I'd much rather be sitting at the beach with a cold drink under an umbrella!
2. I sat shivering in the mountain tent as Dad got the little gas stove going. I tried to look sad, hoping Dad would cancel the trip and take me home. No such luck. He didn't seem to notice my unhappy face. "Please go and get some clean snow to melt for our tea, son," he asked. "It's beautiful out there today! Go and see for yourself!" I made a face and stomped out of the tent, into the morning. Dad was right . . . it was beautiful. The sun was up, shining on the fresh, bright snow. But I wasn't going to let him know he was right!
3. As I wandered up the slope, I checked out my footprints that I had left behind. I continued to head down and watched my legs sink knee-deep into the powdery snow. Suddenly, right in front of me I saw a pair of huge, hairy legs.
4. I looked up quickly. I couldn't believe what I saw. A big, hairy man or ape or . . . something! It was much taller than I am, with shaggy, light-colored fur and long arms. Only its face was free of fur, and two intelligent eyes stared at me. I just stood there looking at it, and it stood there looking at me. Then, it sniffed the air, and unbelievably, smiled. I pulled my lips back in a kind of scared smile. It waved. I lifted my hand slowly and waved back. Then, it turned around and walked away.
5. I stood there for ages staring into space. What was that thing? Could it have been Yeti, the abominable snowman I'd read stories about? It didn't seem terrible or awful, so I didn't think it was abominable. I decided to call it the "amicable snowman," because it seemed quite friendly and peaceful.
6. Much to Dad's surprise, I was happy for the rest of the trip. I didn't tell him about what I'd seen; he wouldn't have believed me. I didn't see my amicable snowman again, but I sure won't forget it!



1. In Paragraph 5, the word **abominable** means:  
(a) *terrible.*                      (b) *stomach.*                      (c) *large ape.*
2. At the start of the story, how did the writer feel about the vacation?  
(a) *excited*                      (b) *unhappy*                      (c) *scared*
3. You can conclude the snowman was friendly because it:  
(a) *looked clever.*  
(b) *smiled and waved.*  
(c) *walked.*
4. What would the writer probably do if he saw the snowman again?  
(a) *try to say hello*  
(b) *tell his dad to shoot it*  
(c) *scream and run*
5. Which happened just before the writer saw the snowman?  
(a) *The snowman sniffed the air.*  
(b) *The writer looked down.*  
(c) *The writer waved.*
6. The writer was happy for the rest of the trip because:  
(a) *something interesting and exciting had happened.*  
(b) *he got used to being on the mountain.*  
(c) *his dad was surprised and happy, too.*
7. The writer stared into space because he was:  
(a) *shocked and amazed.*  
(b) *tired and hungry.*  
(c) *scared.*
8. In Paragraph 5, the word **it** is used instead of:  
(a) *the mountain.*  
(b) *the snowman.*  
(c) *the trip.*



## ***Something Extra***

- ★ The Yeti (abominable snowman) is a cryptid, a creature which may or may not exist. List four other cryptids you have heard of.
- ★ Write about the meeting in the text from the snowman's point of view.

## How Foo Fighters Became UFOs

1. The sky is full of interesting things and events. Over time, humans have learned more about the sky and the universe and have been able to recognize and understand more of the things they see in the sky. Sometimes though, even today, people see things in the sky they don't recognize; things they can't identify. We call these things "*unidentified flying objects*," or UFOs for short.
2. Unidentified flying objects have been seen in the sky since ancient times. It was during World War II that the real interest in UFOs began. Airplane pilots reported seeing things in the sky they couldn't explain. At first, they called these mysterious things "foo fighters." Then in 1947, one pilot, Kenneth Arnold, reported seeing nine flat, saucer- or disc-shaped objects flying very fast in a line. Some newspapers printed his report, calling the objects "flying saucers." After the story was in the newspapers, hundreds of people around the world started reporting flying saucers. Many people believed what they were seeing were alien spaceships.
3. A few years later, a man named Edward J. Ruppelt did a study of flying saucers and other flying things people couldn't identify. He found the objects reported in the sky weren't always shaped like saucers and thought it would be better to call them "*unidentified flying objects*," or UFOs. These words are now used to name anything seen in the sky that cannot be identified.



4. What are UFOs? Some believe that people who think they see UFOs are really seeing normal things in the sky, like birds, searchlights, weather balloons, or kites. There are also many natural events in the sky that can cause different colored flashes of light. When they are studied, many UFO sightings turn out to be these things. But some UFOs cannot be explained. Some people think they could be alien spaceships, time machines from the future, or maybe even top-secret military aircraft. What do you think?



**1. If you can *identify* something, then you know:**

- (a) *what it is.*
- (b) *how it works.*
- (c) *nothing about it.*

**2. More UFOs were probably reported during World War II because:**

- (a) *there were lots of planes in the skies.*
- (b) *people were scared.*
- (c) *aliens were coming to Earth to watch the war.*

**3. Which paragraph explains what UFOs could be?**

- (a) *Paragraph 1*
- (b) *Paragraph 2*
- (c) *Paragraph 4*

**4. A UFO is the name given to something in the sky that:**

- (a) *can't be identified.*
- (b) *is an alien ship.*
- (c) *looks like a saucer.*

**5. More people started reporting UFOs:**

- (a) *before the war.*
- (b) *after Arnold's report.*
- (c) *at night.*

**6. Who thought it would be better to call flying saucers UFOs?**

- (a) *newspaper reporters*
- (b) *Kenneth Arnold*
- (c) *Edward J. Ruppelt*

**7. It is an opinion, not a fact, that UFOs are:**

- (a) *often reported.*
- (b) *alien spacecraft.*
- (c) *seen in the sky.*

**8. You can conclude that not all UFOs:**

- (a) *can be explained.*
- (b) *cannot be explained.*
- (c) *are real.*

**9. In the future, UFOs will probably:**

- (a) *still puzzle people.*
- (b) *never be reported.*
- (c) *never be seen.*

**10. In Paragraph 3, the word *He* means:**

- (a) *Ruppelt.*
- (b) *Arnold.*
- (c) *a man.*

## Something Extra

- ★ Draw your idea of what an alien spaceship might look like.
- ★ Write what you would do if you saw a UFO.