

Intermediate 1
Unit 6 Reading
Presented by Mohammad Rajabpur

Lost in the Snow

Point:

The language of this reading is highly formal and literary. In your summary, simplify the words and the sentences.

It was a desperate situation. We were lost in the snowstorm. We were cold and stiff and the horses were exhausted. We decided to build a fire and camp out till morning.

desperate = hopeless, disappointing

snowstorm = blizzard = a heavy fall of snow that is blown by strong winds

stiff = unable to move ⇒ if you are stiff or part of your body is stiff, your muscles hurt when they are moved.

exhausted = very tired; run-down; drained

camp out = to sleep outside in a tent

till = until

All agreed that a campfire would save us, and so we set about building it. We could find no matches, but decided that we could use our hunting rifles to light the fire. No one in the party doubted that it could be done, and without any trouble. We had all read about it in books and naturally believed it to be possible, just as we believed other stories about Indians and lost hunters making fires by rubbing dry sticks together.

all = all of us

campfire = an outside fire, made and used by people who are staying outside or in tents

will ⇒ **would**

set about = start, begin

We could find no matches. = We couldn't find any matches.

decide = to choose something, especially after thinking carefully about several possibilities

light = make something start to burn

- light ≠ put out
- light ⇒ lighted, lighted ⇒ *He lighted his cigarette.*
- light ⇒ lit, lit ⇒ *He lit his cigarette.*



matches



a hunting rifle

doubt (noun) = uncertainty

doubt (verb) = be uncertain

No one in the party doubted that it could be done. = Everybody in the group was sure that we could do it.

Passive: It could be done.

Active: We could do it.

party = group, team

naturally = as may be expected; of course

just as = exactly in the same way



Indians = the native inhabitants of America



rubbing sticks together to make a fire

- **stick** = a long and thin piece of wood
- **twig** = a small piece of wood
- **log** = a big and thick piece of wood

We knelt in the deep snow and cleared a place to pile the twigs we had gathered upon. It took ten or fifteen minutes before all was prepared for the experiment, and by that time the falling snow had made us resemble a group of white statues. Conversation ceased, and our hearts beat rapidly as the leader of our group aimed his rifle, pulled the trigger, and blew the pile clear out of sight;

our experiment was a complete failure. This was distressing, but a greater horror came to our attention; the horses were gone.

kneel (verb) = to go on your knees

kneel ⇒ knelt, knelt

deep ≠ shallow

pile (noun) = objects positioned one on top of another

pile (verb) = accumulate = to arrange objects into a pile

upon /ə'pɑ:n/ = on

gather = collect

Passive: All was prepared.

Active: We prepared all.

all = everything

All was prepared. = Everything was ready.

- **experiment** = a test
- **experience** = the lessons that we learn in our life

by that time = before that time

resemble = look like

statue = an object made from a hard material, especially stone or metal, to look like a person or animal

cease = stop

Conversation ceased. = Nobody talked.

beat ⇒ beat, beaten

rapidly = very fast

as = when, while



a trigger

blow ⇒ blew, blown

failure ≠ success

distressing = stressful

horror = fear

I had been responsible for holding them, but in the excitement, I had forgotten my duty and had released them. It was useless to try to follow them, for one could pass within a few feet of the creatures and never see them.

I had been responsible for holding them. = It was my duty to hold them.

release = set free

for = because

one = any person

creature = animal

Refusing to give up hope, we once again built a pile. This time we tried the second method we had read about. Each man took a couple of sticks and started rubbing them together. At the end of half an hour, we were a bit warmer from this activity. The sticks, however, were as cold as ever. Our last hope died in our hearts.

a bit = a little

The stick were as cold as ever. = The sticks didn't become hot at all.

Nobody said a word for several minutes; even the wind seemed to quiet down, making no more noise than the falling snowflakes. Then, putting our arms about each other's necks to await the drowsiness that always precedes death by freezing, we bade each other a last farewell.

snowflake = a very small piece of snow

await = wait for

drowsy = sleepy

drowsiness = being sleepy

precede = come before ≠ follow

freezing = turning into ice

bid ⇔ bade, bidden

bid = say

farewell = goodbye

I do not know how long I was in a state of forgetfulness, but it seemed an age. Slowly, awareness came upon me and with it came pain in all the muscles of my body. The thought passed through my brain, "This is death; I am no longer alive." Nevertheless, I rose up, and there in the gray

dawn, not fifteen steps away from us, I saw the outline of buildings, and standing before them were our patient and loyal horses!

state = a condition or way of being that exists at a particular time

age = a very long time

Awareness came upon me. = I became aware.

nevertheless = however = but

rise up = stand up

dawn ≠ dusk

dawn = daybreak, sunrise

outline = the general shape of sth

loyal ≠ disloyal

loyal = faithful

I haven't exaggerated a bit about this strange adventure. It occurred just as I have stated it. Our hunting party had actually made camp at midnight in a storm, hopeless and miserable, right in front of a comfortable inn.

exaggerate = make sth look bigger than what it really is

adventure = a story full of excitement

occur = happen

state (verb) = say

statement (noun) = what you say

miserable = poor and unhappy

right = exactly

inn = a small hotel

Full Text:

Lost in the Snow

It was a desperate situation. We were lost in the snowstorm. We were cold and stiff and the horses were exhausted. We decided to build a fire and camp out till morning.

All agreed that a campfire would save us, and so we set about building it. We could find no matches, but decided that we could use our hunting rifles to light the fire. No one in the party doubted that it could be done, and without any trouble. We had all read about it in books and naturally believed it to be possible, just as we believed other stories about Indians and lost hunters making fires by rubbing dry sticks together.

We knelt in the deep snow and cleared a place to pile the twigs we had gathered upon. It took ten or fifteen minutes before all was prepared for the experiment, and by that time the falling snow had made us resemble a group of white statues. Conversation ceased, and our hearts beat rapidly as the leader of our group aimed his rifle, pulled the trigger, and blew the pile clear out of sight; our experiment was a complete failure. This was distressing, but a greater horror came to our attention; the horses were gone.

I had been responsible for holding them, but in the excitement, I had forgotten my duty and had released them. It was useless to try to follow them, for one could pass within a few feet of the creatures and never see them.

Refusing to give up hope, we once again built a pile. This time we tried the second method we had read about. Each man took a couple of sticks and started rubbing them together. At the end of half an hour, we were a bit warmer from this activity. The sticks, however, were as cold as ever. Our last hope died in our hearts.

Nobody said a word for several minutes; even the wind seemed to quiet down, making no more noise than the falling snowflakes. Then, putting our arms about each other's necks to await the drowsiness that always precedes death by freezing, we bade each other a last farewell.

I do not know how long I was in a state of forgetfulness, but it seemed an age. Slowly, awareness came upon me and with it came pain in all the muscles of my body. The thought passed through my brain, "This is death; I am no longer alive." Nevertheless, I rose up, and there in the gray dawn, not fifteen steps away from us, I saw the outline of buildings, and standing before them were our patient and loyal horses!

I haven't exaggerated a bit about this strange adventure. It occurred just as I have stated it. Our hunting party had actually made camp at midnight in a storm, hopeless and miserable, right in front of a comfortable inn.

The Simplified Story:

We were in big trouble. We were lost in a snowstorm. We were very cold and stiff, and the horses were very tired. We decided to make a fire and stay until morning.

Everyone agreed that a fire would save us, so we started to build it. We had no matches, but we thought we could use our guns to start the fire. We all believed it would work because we read about it in books.

We knelt in the deep snow and made a place to put the twigs we found. It took about ten or fifteen minutes to get ready. By then, the snow made us look like white statues. We stopped talking, and our hearts beat fast as our leader aimed his gun, pulled the trigger, and blew the pile of twigs away. Our plan failed.

Then, we noticed something worse: the horses were gone. I was supposed to hold them, but I forgot and let them go. It was useless to look for them because we couldn't see them in the snow.

We didn't give up. We tried another way we read about. Each man took two sticks and rubbed them together. After half an hour, we were a bit warmer, but the sticks were still cold. We lost hope.

No one spoke for a few minutes. Even the wind was quiet. We hugged each other, ready to fall asleep and die from the cold. We said goodbye to each other.

I don't know how long I was out, but it felt like a long time. Slowly, I woke up and felt pain in my muscles. I thought, "This is death; I am no longer alive." But I stood up and saw buildings not far away. Our horses were standing in front of them!

This strange adventure happened just as I told it. Our hunting group had camped in a storm, feeling hopeless, right in front of a warm inn.

Sample Summary:

A group of hunters were lost in a snowstorm. They were very tired and couldn't continue. Therefore, they decided to build a fire and stay there until the next morning. They didn't have any matches with them and they thought it was easy to build a fire by using their rifles or by rubbing sticks together. They collected some twigs. Then they cleared a place in the snow and piled the twigs on that place. The leader of their group fired his rifle at the twigs, but this experiment was a failure. The shot blew the twigs away and frightened the horses. The horses went away and disappeared. They couldn't look for the horses because they couldn't see well in the thick fog. They didn't give up hope and rubbed sticks together for half an hour to build a fire, but they were unsuccessful. They lost their hope and they thought they were dying. They said goodbye to each other and waited for death in the cold weather. The next morning, when they became aware and there was no storm and they could see better, they understood they had camped out the whole night in front of a comfortable inn. Their horses were also over there.

Source:

[Intermediate 1 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://intermediate1(anglophone.ir))