

Understanding the text

- 1 What did Graham throw away? Why?
- 2 At first, how did the boys try to put out the fire?
- 3 When Harry woke up, what did he think had happened?
- 4 What did Harry know they needed to put out the fire?
- 5 What did Harry tell the others to do?

Looking at language

- 6 Explain these phrases in your own words.

a deceived the eye

b come to grips with

c level-headed

d in it at the start

- 7 Explain the meaning of these words as they are used in the story.
Use a dictionary to help you.

a instinctively

b futilely

c humus

d foliage

e imminent

f encirclement

Exploring the characters

- 8 Who are the characters in the story?
- 9 What are they doing?
- 10 Is the fire deliberate or accidental? How do you know?
- 11 Who is thinking more clearly when the fire starts, Graham or Wallace? Find evidence to support your view.
- 12 Find evidence in the story that Graham and Wallace panic as the fire spreads. Think about what the author tells us, what the boys do and what they say.
- 13 Graham says, 'We've got to get it out.' Harry says, 'We've got to get out of here.' How is each boy reacting to the fire?

Explain in your own words why Graham and Harry are reacting so differently.

