

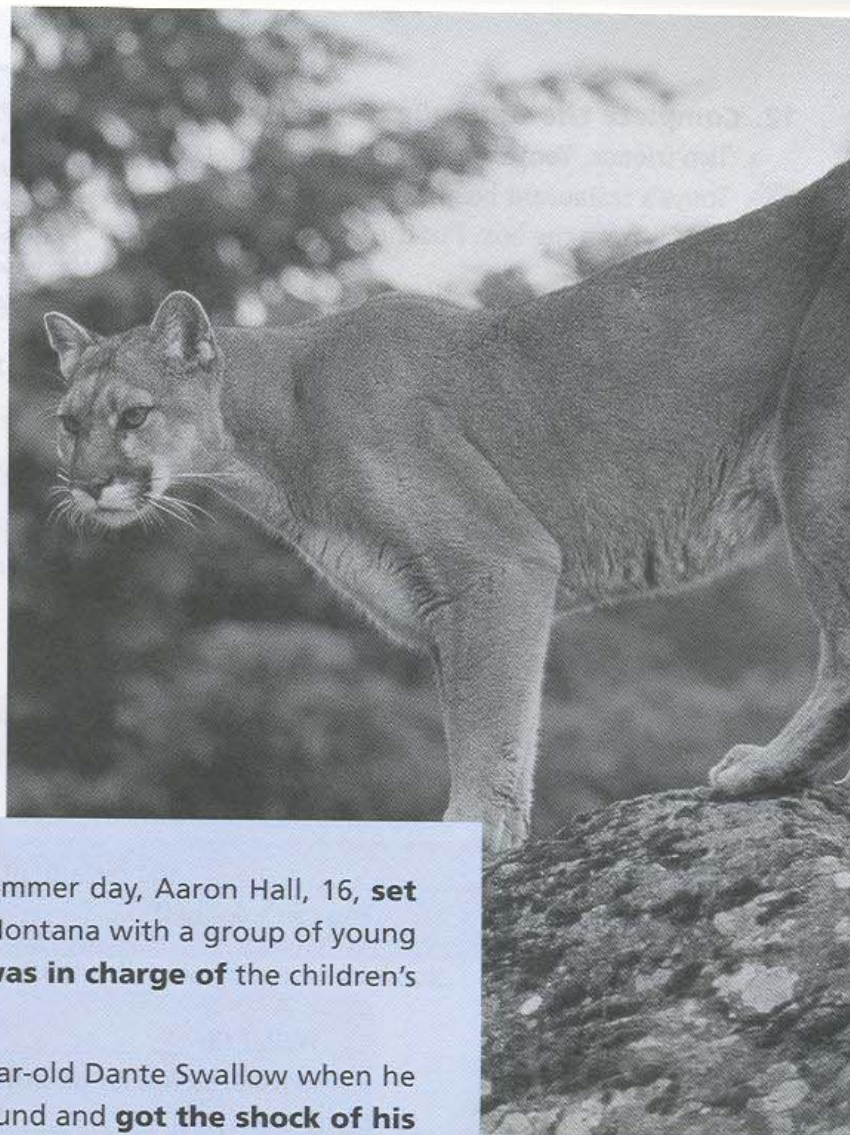
5 Boy Fights Lion Tooth and Nail

1. Quick Reading

Look at the pictures on page 27.

What is the story about?

Now read quickly to get the main idea.



MISSOULA, MT, USA ¹On a fine summer day, Aaron Hall, 16, **set out on** a hike in the mountains of Montana with a group of young children. As a camp counselor, Hall **was in charge of** the children's safety.

²Hall was walking **in front of** six-year-old Dante Swallow when he heard Dante scream. ³He turned around and **got the shock of his life**. An animal had Dante by the neck and was dragging him away. **At first glance** the animal **looked like** a dog, but then Hall saw the face of a mountain lion. ⁴He reacted **in a flash**. He began kicking and hitting the lion. He **fought tooth and nail**.

⁵The lion **let go of** Dante and **backed off**, running into the bushes.

⁶Hall gave Dante first aid. Then he jumped into a nearby truck and drove the boy down the mountain. ⁷At the hospital Dante got stitches in his neck. What **a close call!** The lion's teeth had just missed Dante's main artery.

⁸"I **was** really **scared of** that lion," Hall said afterwards. "I don't even remember fighting him." He is now a hero in his community. "What he did is just incredible," said Dante's grateful parents.

artery: a tube that carries fresh blood from the heart through the body

New idioms and expressions

fight tooth and nail	fight very hard
set out (on a hike, a walk, a trip)*	begin (a hike, a walk, a trip, an adventure, etc.)
be in charge (of someone or something)	be responsible (for someone or something)
in front of someone or something	ahead of; before someone or something
get the shock of one's life	be extremely surprised and scared
at first glance	at the first quick look
look like someone or something	be similar in appearance to someone or something
in a flash	very quickly
let go (of someone or something)*	release (someone or something)
back off (from someone)*	move in reverse; stop threatening (someone)
a close call	a narrow escape
be scared of someone or something	fear; be afraid of someone or something

*phrasal verb (see Lexicon and Appendix D)

2. Listen

Cover the story and look only at these pictures. Listen to the story two or three times.



3. Read the Story

Now read the story carefully. Pay special attention to the idioms so that you're ready for Exercise 4.

4. Listen and Complete

Close your book. Listen to the story again. When the tape or your teacher pauses, try to complete the idiom.

5. Match

Complete the idioms using the words in the box. Then write the number of the matching definition.

charge of	flash	glance	call
tooth and nail	off	of one's life	

___ a. get the shock _____	1. a narrow escape
___ b. back _____	2. very quickly
___ c. a close _____	3. be responsible for
___ d. fight _____	4. at the first quick look
___ e. be in _____	5. be very surprised and scared
___ f. at first _____	6. move in reverse
___ g. in a _____	7. fight hard

6. Tell the Story

Look only at the pictures and the New Idioms box on page 27. Tell the story using as many idioms as you can.

- First, work with the whole class to retell the story.
- Then tell the story to a partner or small group.

7. Answer the Questions

About the story

- What was Hall in charge of?
- What did the animal look like at first glance?
- How did Hall react when he saw it was a lion? How would you react in the same situation?
- What did the lion do after Hall fought him tooth and nail?
- Why did Dante have a close call?
- What is your opinion of Hall?

About you

- Tell about a time when you got the shock of your life.
- Are you scared of any animals? Which ones?
- Tell about a close call you have had in your life. What happened?
- Do you like to be in charge of things? Explain.

8. Take a Dictation

Listen to the tape or your teacher and write the dictation in your notebook.

9. Complete the Idioms



- a. The dog and cat fought _____. Finally the dog let _____ the cat and backed _____.

- b. The accident happened _____ flash. The cyclist was not injured, but it was a close _____.



- c. The woman got the shock _____ when she opened the cabin door and saw a bear _____ of her.

10. Look at Grammar

be scared of someone

be scared of something

be scared of doing something

The child is scared of his neighbor.

The child is scared of the dark.

The child is scared of sleeping in the dark.

Note: *be scared of = be afraid of = be frightened of*

be in charge of someone

be in charge of something

be in charge of doing something

Esperanza is in charge of the children.

Esperanza is in charge of the party.

Esperanza is in charge of cooking and cleaning.

X looks like Y

X and Y look alike

Jill looks like her mother.

Jill and her mother look alike.

Note: You can also use *look like* in the following ways:

They look like they're cold. (= They appear to be cold.)

It looks like rain. (= It is probably going to rain.)

It looks like Jose is going to stay. (= Jose is probably going to stay.)

Complete the sentences with help from the grammar box above. Make sure they are true for you.

- As a child, I was scared _____.
Now I'm scared _____.
- Growing up in my family, I was in charge _____,
and my _____ was in charge _____.
- I look _____.
- My _____ and I look/don't look _____.

11. Write a Dialogue

Work with a partner. Write a dialogue using at least four idioms from the unit.

Act it out for the class.