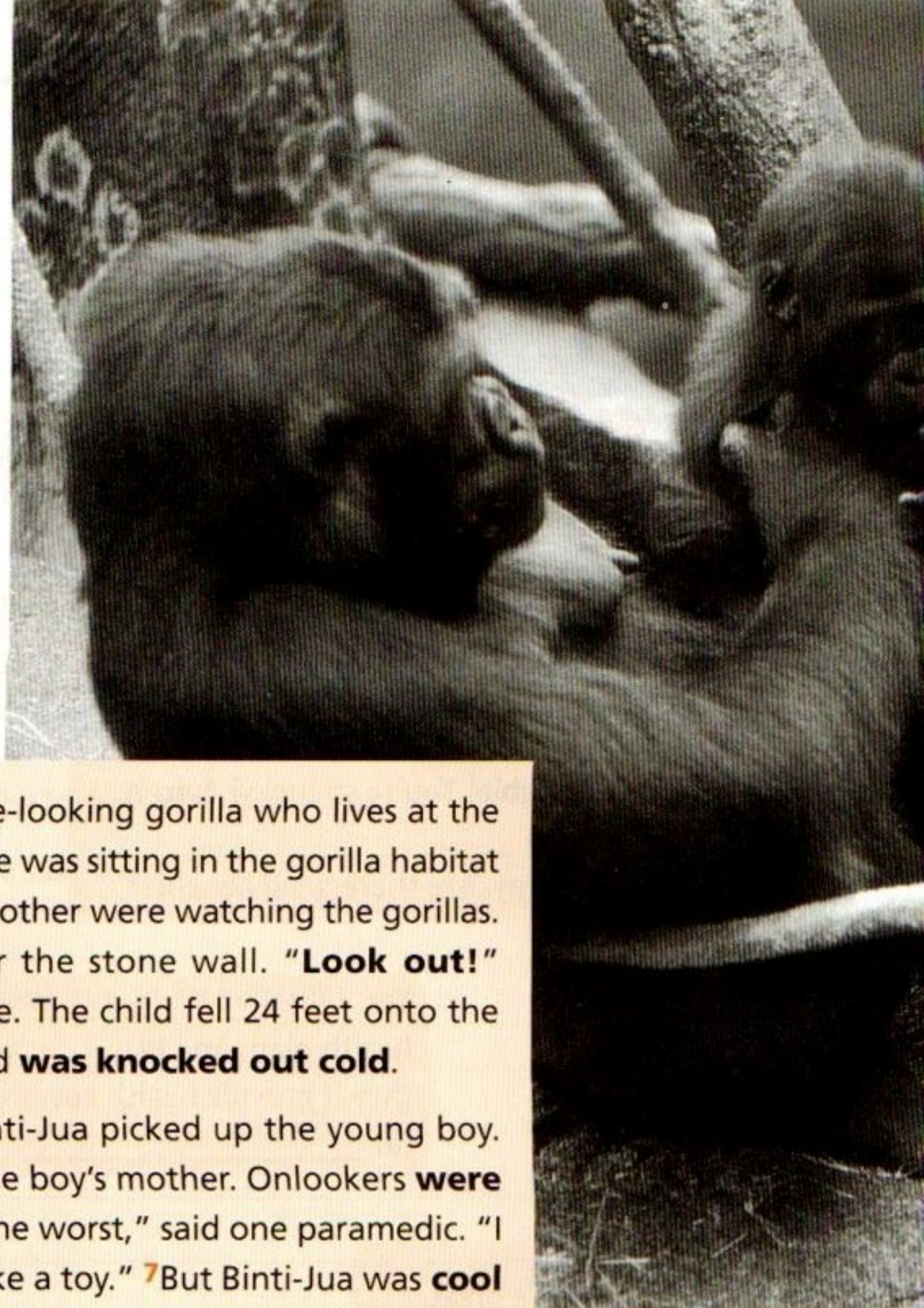


17

Gorilla Lends a Helping Hand



1. Quick Reading

Look at the pictures on page 79.

What is the story about?

Now read quickly to get the main idea.

CHICAGO, IL, USA ¹Binti-Jua is a fierce-looking gorilla who lives at the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago. One day, she was sitting in the gorilla habitat eating bananas. ²A little boy and his mother were watching the gorillas. ³All at once, the child climbed over the stone wall. **"Look out!"** someone shouted. ⁴But it was too late. The child fell 24 feet onto the cement floor of the gorilla habitat and **was knocked out cold**.

⁵With her own baby on her back, Binti-Jua picked up the young boy.

⁶"The gorilla's got my baby!" cried the boy's mother. Onlookers **were scared out of their wits**. "I feared the worst," said one paramedic. "I thought she was going to treat him like a toy." ⁷But Binti-Jua was **cool as a cucumber** as she took care of the boy. She rocked him in her arms and **kept** the other gorillas **away**. ⁸Then she carried him to the gate where zoo officials were waiting. "I can't believe how gentle she was! **We're proud of** her. **She's the apple of our eye**," said a zoo director. The little boy is **safe and sound**, and Binti-Jua is a hero.

24 feet = 7.2 meters

New idioms and expressions

lend (someone) a (helping) hand	help (someone)
Look out!*	Be careful!; Be alert!
be knocked out cold	become unconscious from a blow to the head
be scared out of one's wits	be very afraid
(as) cool as a cucumber	very calm and relaxed
keep (someone or something) away*	make (someone or something) stay at a distance
be proud of someone or something	be very pleased with someone or something
be the apple of one's eye	be one's favorite person or thing
safe and sound	safe and healthy; with no damage or injury

recycled idioms: pick up, take care of, all at once

*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. Tell the Story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Tell the story using as many idioms as you can.

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

6. Answer the Questions

About the story.....

- What happened to the boy when he fell into the gorilla habitat?
- How did onlookers feel?
- How did Binti-Jua act? How did she lend a helping hand?
- How does the zoo director feel about Binti-Jua?

About you.....

- Do you approve of putting animals in zoos? Why or why not?
- Tell about a time when you were scared out of your wits.
- When you take a test, are you nervous or cool as a cucumber?
- Were you ever knocked out cold? If so, how did it happen?
- Who (or what) is the apple of your eye?
- What accomplishment in your life are you proud of?

7. Write about Yourself

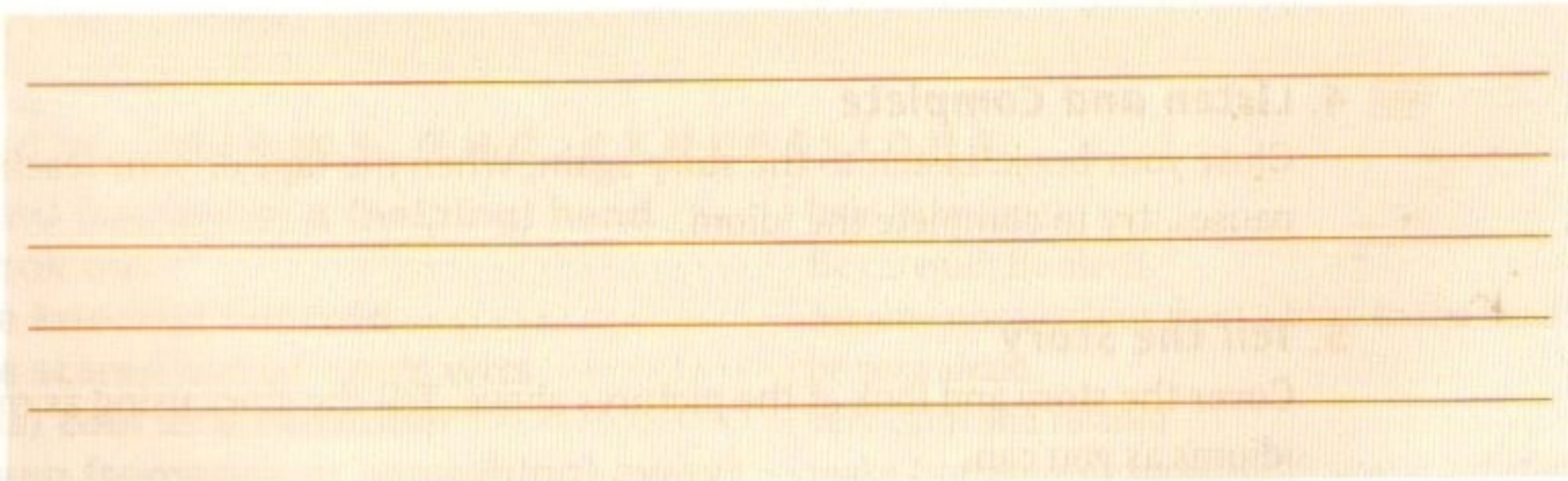
Complete the sentences, writing something true about yourself.

- I often lend _____ a hand _____
because _____.
- I'm very proud of _____.
- I'm the apple of _____'s eye.

8. Write a Dialogue

Work with a partner. Write a dialogue using at least three idioms from the unit.
Act it out for a small group or the class.

9. Take a Dictation



10. Complete the Story

a. Read the true story and fill in the blanks with idioms from the box.

- look out
- lend him a hand
- safe and sound
- scared out of his wits
- the apple of her eye

Boy Survives Fall Over Cliff

Encinitas, CA, USA Grant Taylor Huff is an active two-year-old boy. His grandmother often takes care of him. He's (1) _____.

One day, Grant was in the backyard of his grandmother's home, which sits above the Pacific Ocean. He was playing with his four-year-old cousin. Grant began to climb over a wall. "(2) _____!" his cousin called. But it was too late. Grant fell and rolled down a steep hill for 30 feet (9 meters). Then he flew off a cliff toward the ocean, 50 feet (15 meters) below.

A couple was walking on the beach when they saw something fall from the sky. They found little Grant in the water, just as large waves began to wash over* him. They ran to (3) _____. When they pulled Grant out of the water, he was (4) _____ but seemed unhurt. The couple contacted the police, and Grant was returned to his family (5) _____.

*wash over: cover with water
recycled idiom: take care of

b. Read or tell the story to a partner.