

Improving Your Reading with Arlo the Author: Androcles and the Lion



Long ago, there lived a man named Androcles. When he was a young boy, Androcles had been captured by evil slave masters and cruelly taken away from his homeland in Rome. Desperate to return to his old life, Androcles hatched a plan to escape. One night, he waited until the full moon was high in the sky and slipped (wary but unnoticed) through the front door which had been left ajar. For days, he wandered the desert, guided only by the stars at night.

Very soon, his small bundle of supplies depleted and he started to become delirious from lack of food, water and sleep. Just as he was about to give up completely, Androcles noticed a cave on the hillside which was surrounded by glistening berries. After several hours of scrambling up the treacherous hill, he was rewarded with handfuls of juicy berries which he ate greedily. Having quenched his appetite and thirst, he rested his head and fell into a deep slumber.



Suddenly, he was woken up by a noise that made his blood run cold. The roar of a wild beast sounded in his ears and, as he scrambled to his feet, he saw a gigantic, monstrous lion blocking the entrance to the cave.

1. What do the words '**slipped**' and '**wary**' tell you about how Androcles left the house?

2. Why is '**greedily**' a good word to describe the way Androcles ate the berries?

3. **After several hours of scrambling up the treacherous hill...**

What does the word '**treacherous**' tell you about the hill?

4. **...made his blood run cold.**

Why has the author included this description?

- It shows you how cold Androcles was.
- It shows you how tired Androcles was.
- It shows you how frightened Androcles was.
- It shows you how frightened the lion was.

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1. What do the words '**slipped**' and '**wary**' tell you about how Androcles left the house?

Accept answers which suggest that Androcles left the house quietly, such as: They tell you that Androcles made no noise because he didn't want to be heard.

2. Why is '**greedily**' a good word to describe the way Androcles ate the berries?

Accept answers which suggest that Androcles was hungry/ate the berries quickly, such as: The word 'greedily' is good because Androcles was so hungry that he ate them really quickly.'

After several hours of scrambling up the treacherous hill...

What does the word '**treacherous**' tell you about the hill?

Accept answers which suggest that the hill was dangerous, such as: It tells you that the hill was not easy to climb up.

...made his blood run cold.

Why has the author included this description?

- It shows you how cold Androcles was.
- It shows you how tired Androcles was.
- It shows you how frightened Androcles was.**
- It shows you how frightened the lion was.