*Bill Bryson and his friend Stephen Katz are camping in the woods of North America.*

1 There was a sound of undergrowth being disturbed - a click of breaking branches, a weighty pushing through low foliage - and then a kind of large, vaguely irritable snuffling noise.

Bear!

5 I sat bolt upright. Instantly every neuron in my brain was awake and dashing around frantically, like ants when you disturb their nest. I reached instinctively for my knife, then realized I had left it in my pack, just outside the tent. Nocturnal defence had ceased to be a concern after many successive nights of tranquil woodland repose.There was another noise, quite near.

10 ‘Stephen, you awake?’ I whispered.

‘Yup,’ he replied in a weary but normal voice.

‘What was that?’

‘How the hell should I know?’

‘It sounded big.’

15 ‘Everything sounds big in the woods.’

This was true. Once a skunk had come plodding through our camp and it had sounded like a stegosaurus.

There was another heavy rustle and then the sound of lapping at the spring. It was having a drink, whatever it was.

20 I shuffled on my knees to the foot of the tent, cautiously unzipped the mesh and peered out, but it was pitch black. As quietly as I could, I brought in my backpack and, with the light of a small torch, searched through it for my knife. When I found it and opened the blade I was appalled at how wimpy it looked. It was a perfectly

respectable appliance for, say, buttering pancakes, but patently inadequate for 25 defending oneself against 400 pounds of ravenous fur.

Carefully, very carefully, I climbed from the tent and put on the torch, which cast a distressingly feeble beam.

Something about 15 or 20 feet away looked up at me. I couldn’t see anything at all of its shape or size - only two shining eyes. It went silent, whatever it was, and stared 30 back at me.

‘Stephen,’ I whispered at his tent, ‘did you pack a knife?’

‘No.’

‘Have you got anything sharp at all?’

He thought for a moment. ‘Nail clippers.’

Questions:

Read lines 1-3 (5)

A1 - **List** five of nature’s signals that Bryson suspected he heard a bear.

Read Lines 4-15 (5)

A2 - **How** does the writer show that he is frightened and on edge?

Read Lines 10-34 (10)

A3- What **impressions** do you get of what his friend’s attitude is?

Read Lines 18-25 (10)

A4 **How** does the writer make these lines dramatic?

You should write about:

what happens to build **tension** and drama;

the writer’s use of **language** to create tension and drama;

the **effects** on the reader.

Read Lines 25- to the end (10)

A5 “In the last twenty or so lines of this passage, the writer encourages the reader to feel humour at Bryson’s expense.” [10]

To what extent do you agree with this view?

You should write about:

your own **impressions** of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_as he is presented here and in the passage as whole;

**how** the writer has created these impressions.

**You must refer to the text to support your answer.**