

Just when Daisy thinks that she has found a place all for herself, some boys come along and try to ruin it. Find out how Daisy handles the boys' challenge. Read the selection below. Then read each question and choose the best answer. Use the provided answer sheet at the end of the workbook to record your answers.

## The Secret Place

Daisy couldn't wait for school to be out. She knew she'd have to run quickly out the front door or everyone would see where she was going. She tried to act like she wasn't impatient, like she wasn't about to burst. "Hurry, hurry, hurry," Daisy whispered to the clock.

Finally 3:30 arrived. Before the echo of the bell's clang had disappeared, Daisy was out of her seat, opening her locker, and heading toward the front door of the school. She was determined to make it to her secret place, the place where no one mistreated her. No one called her names, talked about her clothes, refused to sit by her at lunch, or ignored her between classes. She was determined to keep the place a secret. She wouldn't share it with anyone, no matter what. What she didn't know was that Eddie, Bert, and Sammy were right behind her. They had seen her constant glances at the clock and had watched how quickly she ran out of the room.

"She's got a secret," Eddie said as the bell rang.

"Yeah. Let's find out what it is," Bert suggested.

Daisy was unaware of the boys as they followed her out the front door and through the busy schoolyard. She didn't see or hear them as she eagerly jogged to her destination. The boys were surprised when Daisy finally stopped at the edge of a huge lot filled with discarded tires and tall weeds. She ran through the clutter to a small shack hidden at the back of the lot.

"Cool! She's got a clubhouse!" Sammy exclaimed as Daisy went inside the shack.

"Not for long, she doesn't," Bert snickered.

The boys threw themselves onto their stomachs and let the tall grass and old tires hide them from Daisy's view. They waited a long time for Daisy to come out, but she never did. After a while Eddie said, "I'm getting hungry."

"And this grass itches," Sammy added.

"I think we'd be much more comfortable in our new clubhouse," Bert said.

"But what if Daisy has decided it's her clubhouse?" Eddie asked.

"So what if she has?" Bert said. "There are three of us and only one of her."

"But I've heard she's pretty tough," Eddie said. "You know how she doesn't do things like other girls. Like coming here."

"So what?" Bert said. "I can handle her. She's just a girl."

Slowly the boys stood up and walked toward the shack. They could hear Daisy singing softly, and they could smell a wonderful scent coming from inside the cabin.

"Hey, Daisy, you girl, come out. We want to talk to you," Bert called.

After a minute Daisy opened the door. Staring at the boys, she stood in the open doorway. The boys couldn't believe what they saw inside. Daisy had painted the walls a bright yellow. She had filled the shelves on the back wall with green plants. A table with a red-and-white-checked tablecloth held all shapes and sizes of candles. That's what smelled so good, the burning candles.

"So what do you want?" she asked.

"Uh, thanks for showing us this neat clubhouse and for getting it fixed up for us," Bert said. "But we'll be using it from now on."

He started toward the door, but she didn't move. "This isn't your clubhouse. I discovered it. Go away," Daisy commanded.

"Now, Daisy, be smart. You shouldn't be coming here all alone. It's not safe. So, we'll come instead and keep a good eye on your little clubhouse here," Bert said as he stepped closer.

"I don't need any boys taking care of my stuff," said Daisy, still not moving.

"Look, Daisy, we don't want any trouble, but you don't need this neat clubhouse all the time just for yourself," Bert explained. "Tell you what: We're fair guys, so we'll let you use it once a week, any day that you want it."

"I want it every day of the week because it's mine. I found it. I cleaned it. I painted it. It's mine," said Daisy.

"Well, it might have been yours, but now it's ours," Bert said, angry at this girl for not crying and running home like other girls would have done by now.

"Bert Johnson, you take one step closer to me, and I'll push all these candles onto the floor of this old cabin. It will catch on fire so quickly you won't have time to get away before flames are everywhere." Daisy stepped back and picked up two burning candles from the table.

Sammy and Eddie looked at her and then at Bert. "Hey, man," Eddie said. "Remember what they call her at school—Crazy Daisy."

Bert stared at her for a moment. "I mean it, Bert," Daisy said. "I'd rather no one have this place than to hand it over to you just because you told me to."

Sammy and Eddie turned to go. "Come on, man, she's unstable. She'll burn it down and you with it," Eddie said. Bert eyed the two burning candles that Daisy was holding.

"Yeah, she is crazy," he said, and the boys began to jog back toward their neighborhood.

Daisy watched them go and then put the candles back down on the table. A small smile appeared on her face. They might think she was crazy, but she didn't care. This was her clubhouse. Hers. All hers.

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1. Which word **best** describes how Daisy feels at the beginning of the selection?
  - A cheerful
  - B confident
  - C serious
  - D anxious
  
2. Which of the following **best** describes why Daisy is so eager for the end of the school day?
  - A She wants to join her friends in the lunchroom.
  - B She wants to go to her secret clubhouse.
  - C She wants to fight with the boys over her clubhouse.
  - D She wants to get started on her homework.
  
3. According to the selection, why does Daisy go to her own clubhouse after school?
  - A She enjoys spending time by herself.
  - B She has no home to go to after school.
  - C She is mistreated by the kids in school.
  - D She meets her friends there to do homework.
  
4. In the second paragraph, how does the word *clang* describe Daisy's feelings about school?
  - A It is musical and cheery.
  - B It is harsh and unattractive.
  - C It is harmonic and happy.
  - D It is loud and inspiring.
  
5. Based on the context of the fifth paragraph, what does the word *discarded* mean?
  - A abandoned
  - B faded
  - C large
  - D old
  
6. How does clubhouse's appearance compare to the way Daisy is treated at school?
  - A Both the clubhouse and Daisy are cheery on the inside.
  - B Both the clubhouse and Daisy have fire burning inside.
  - C The clubhouse is very girlish inside and Daisy acts very feminine.
  - D The outside of the clubhouse looks as if no one would want it and no one wants to be with Daisy.

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7. Who is the narrator of the story?
- A Daisy
  - B Bert
  - C Eddie
  - D the narrator is not named
8. What makes Daisy different from other girls Bert knows?
- A She is afraid of the boys.
  - B She stands up for herself.
  - C She enjoys being by herself.
  - D She likes pretty things.
9. How does Daisy change from the beginning to the end of the selection?
- A She changes from being worried to being brave.
  - B She changes from being popular to being alone.
  - C She changes from being silly to being smart.
  - D She changes from being intelligent to being crazy.
10. Which word best describes Bert when he tries to make Daisy leave the clubhouse?
- A kind
  - B selfish
  - C cruel
  - D honest
11. What effect is created by the author's repetition of the word *hers* at the end of the selection?
- A to emphasize that Daisy is crazy
  - B to show that Daisy is proud of her clubhouse
  - C to emphasize that Daisy is possessive and greedy
  - D to show that Daisy is glad the boys have gone away
12. Which conclusion is *best* supported by the end of the selection?
- A The boys are sorry they have been unkind to Daisy.
  - B Daisy is satisfied with her clubhouse and her actions.
  - C Daisy really is a crazy girl.
  - D Daisy wishes she let the boys in her clubhouse.