

## Real-life Narrative

Narrative Piece: "A Catch Tale" retold by Charlie Slane taken from Literature and Media 10 (4).

### A Catch Tale

*Retold by Charlie Slane*

You don't see bears around as often as you used to. But I remember seeing one once when I was out picking raspberries. It was the end of August and it was hot. It was a real scorcher! And there I was, down on my knees making my way around the raspberry canes. Suddenly, I came nose to nose with this great black bear.

He was doing the same thing, of course. He was eating the raspberries, stripping them off with his big paw and stuffing them in his mouth. He was surprised and annoyed that I was picking his berries, because he growled and got up on his hind legs. Well, I didn't hang around.

I took off down the old woods road, and when I looked back he was coming along after me on all fours. Bears can run pretty fast. I can run pretty fast too. I was running the mile in about two minutes, at least. But so was the bear and was he was right behind me.

I ran and ran and ran. I was awful hot. The sweat was just pouring off me. I'd look back every once in a while, and the bear seemed to be getting a little closer. So I put on a little more effort and I ran for an awful long time. I was getting tired too. But the bear was still coming on. He wasn't getting any farther away. In fact, he was just as close as he could be.

So I ran and ran and ran. I ran for an awful long time. And just when I thought I couldn't run another step, I came to this lake. It was frozen over a little bit. There was just an inch of ice over it, and I knew that it would hold me if I ran over it real fast, and I knew if the bear followed me, it wouldn't hold him.

So I ran out onto the ice, and I stopped in the middle. And there came the bear, charging after me. He paused for a minute when he saw me out there, then he ran right out onto the ice. He got just about halfway when the ice cracked and gave way and down he went and drowned. That was the end of him.

"Hey! That can't be true. You said it was summertime and awful hot. There couldn't be any ice on the lake then!"

Yup, it's true all right. It was summertime when I started running. But like I said, I ran for an awful long time.



## Part One: OSSLT Practice Questions

### Multiple Choice

(Circle the letter next to the best or most correct answer for each question).

1. What is the purpose of the repetition of "So I ran and ran and ran?"
  - A to extend the length of the story
  - B to emphasize the amount of time the narrator was running
  - C to show how athletic the narrator is
  - D to show how fast the bear can run

2. Why did the bear chase the narrator?  
A Because the narrator smelled like bacon  
B Because the bear was trying to protect her cubs from the narrator  
C Because the narrator taunted and annoyed the bear  
D Because the bear was upset about the narrator eating the berries
3. What element of this text is an indication that this is a narrative?  
A The conversational tone of the narrator.  
B The presence of a conflict.  
C The use of literary devices.  
D The humorous characteristics of the narrator.
4. What is the purpose of the image of the bear?  
A To emphasize the ferocity of the bear  
B To make the story look better  
C So that people who like bears will want to read the story  
D To help the reader see what the narrator was seeing
5. Why did the narrator run out onto the lake?  
A Because he thought the bear would lose the narrator's scent  
B Because it was a shortcut to the road  
C Because he thought the ice would not hold the bear  
D Because he likes ice fishing

**Written Answers**

1. Why does the person in paragraph 7 object to the way the narrator ended the story?

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2. What is the significance of the title "A Catch Tale"?

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**Answer Key for Multiple Choice Questions:**

1. B  
2. D  
3. A  
4. A  
5. C