

The Great Adventure at Yellowstone

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Audio CD



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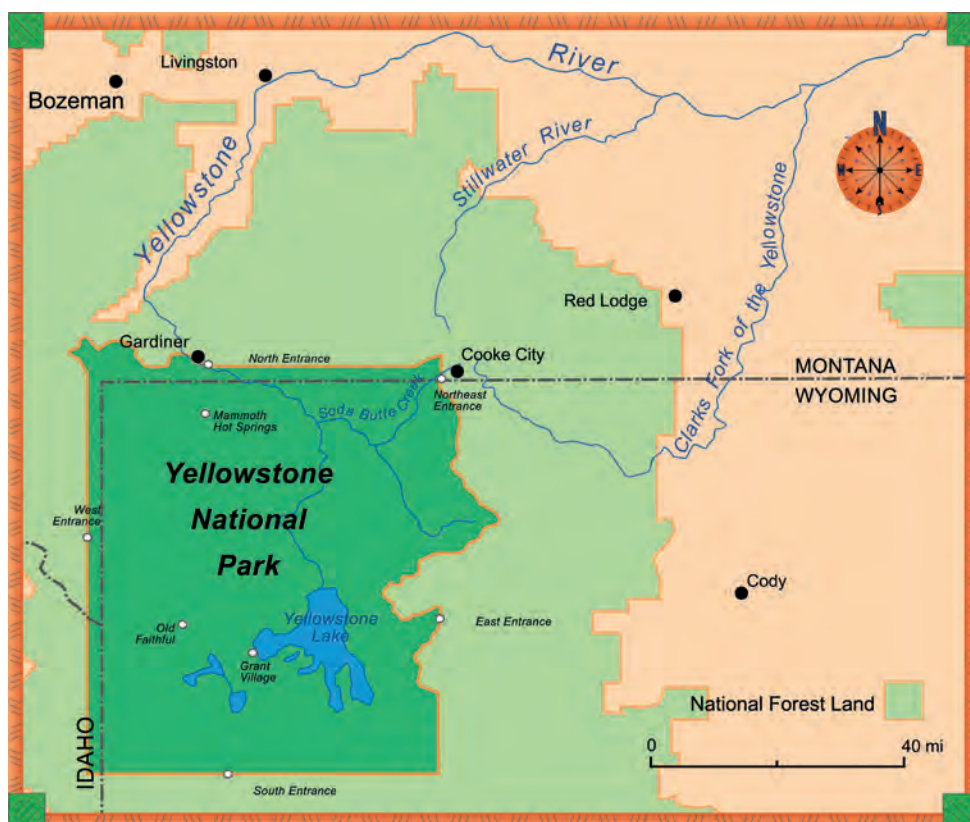


These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages linked to the listening activities.

The Characters

*From left to right: Sally Farrell;
Karen Walker; George Walker;
Marian Walker; Alexander Walker.*





Yellowstone National Park



This story takes place in Yellowstone National Park, in Wyoming (USA). The park first opened on March 1, 1872 and it is the oldest national park in the world. Thousands of visitors go to Yellowstone every year, and summer is the busiest season. It is a big, beautiful park, with high mountains, forests, rivers, lakes and sixty different kinds of animals. Some of these animals are in danger of extinction,¹ but they are safe in the park. Here they can start families and avoid the danger of extinction. Forest rangers live in the park all year and they have a very important job. They look after the animals, trees and plants, and help the visitors.

1. **Extinction** : when a kind of animal does not exist anymore.



Lower Fall of Yellowstone River.



Old Faithful geyser.

When a visitor does not know much about camping and exploring the mountains, rivers and forests, the forest ranger gives him/her useful information. There are eight visitor centers, where people can get maps of the park and its trails, a calendar of events and even the weather report for the day. There are also twelve big campsites and a lot of hotels. There are a lot of fun things to do and see in the park, such as taking a boat ride on the lake, riding a horse, climbing the mountains, birdwatching and camping.

Yellowstone is famous for its geysers,² there are more than 300 in the park! Old Faithful is perhaps the most famous geyser in the world because it sends hot

2. **Geyser** : very hot water that comes up from the earth.



A road crossing the park.

water into the air regularly about every 90 minutes. And it is never late! Visitors like taking pictures of Old Faithful. Other important geysers in the park are Grand Geyser, Grotto Geyser, Riverside Geyser and Lion Geyser Group.

There are also some beautiful waterfalls³ in the park, such as Firehole Falls, Tower Falls and Gibbon Falls.



An elk.

1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

- 1 Yellowstone is the biggest national park in the world.
- 2 A lot of people visit the park in the summer.
- 3 There are sixty different kinds of animals in Yellowstone.
- 4 Forest rangers work in the park during the summer months.
- 5 A geyser is a small river with very hot water.
- 6 Old Faithful is not the only geyser in Yellowstone.

T	F
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐

3. Waterfall :



BEFORE YOU READ

1 COMPREHENSION CHECK



Listen to the first part of Chapter One and choose the correct answer – A, B or C.

- 1 Karen Walker's favorite sport is
 - A ☐ swimming.
 - B ☐ volleyball.
 - C ☐ basketball.
- 2 Alex Walker wants to become
 - A ☐ a forest ranger.
 - B ☐ a scientist.
 - C ☐ a professional basketball player.
- 3 Sally Farrell is Karen and Alex's
 - A ☐ cousin.
 - B ☐ sister.
 - C ☐ friend.
- 4 Mrs Marian Walker opens the information office
 - A ☐ at eight o'clock.
 - B ☐ at nine o'clock.
 - C ☐ on the Fourth of July.
- 5 Karen's grandmother gave her
 - A ☐ a leather belt for her birthday.
 - B ☐ new black sneakers for Christmas.
 - C ☐ a white T-shirt.

2 READING PICTURES

Look at the picture on page 13 and answer the following questions.

- 1 What's happening?
- 2 Who are these people?
- 3 Where are they?



CHAPTER ONE

Summer at Yellowstone

Karen and Alexander Walker live in Grant Village in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming. Their parents are forest rangers who work at the national park. There are a lot of forest rangers at Yellowstone and each one looks after a different area of the park. The Walker family lives in a big wooden house called the ranger station.



Karen is a pretty girl of fourteen, with short red hair and big blue eyes. She loves volleyball and plays on the school team. Her favorite subject at school is science because she lives in a national park and loves nature and animals. She wants to become a scientist. Alex is a tall boy of fifteen, with brown hair and blue eyes. He loves sports and doesn't like math. He is the best player on the school basketball team. He wants to become a professional basketball player.

Our story begins on a sunny Wednesday morning in late June.

"I'm really happy it's summer vacation," said Karen, who was still in bed. "The sun's shining... but there's no school!"



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“Summer vacation – the best time of the year,” said Alex, laughing.

“And today Sally’s coming to visit us!” said Karen, who was excited. Sally Farrell was their cousin. She was born in New York but now she lived in Chicago, Illinois. Mr and Mrs Walker were her uncle and aunt. Sally was Karen’s age and she wanted to spend the summer at Yellowstone.

“It’ll be great to see Sally again,” said Alex. “She’s a lot of fun and loves animals, but she doesn’t know much about them. We can show her all the interesting things in the park.”

“Yes, it’ll be wonderful!” said Karen, looking at the alarm clock. “It’s almost eight o’clock! We have to get up – it’s breakfast time.”

“Yes, there’s no school, but we have to help mom!” said Alex, putting on his watch.

Their father, George Walker, broke his leg in a bad accident a week ago, and now he was in bed. Their mother, Marian, had to do all the work at the ranger station.

“Good morning, guys!”¹ said Mrs Walker, who was in the kitchen. “Breakfast is ready. Today’s a busy day. At nine o’clock I have to open the information office at the ranger station. There are lots of tourists this year and we have to get ready for the Fourth of July² celebrations.”

“We’ll come and help you, mom,” said Alex, putting some butter and jam on his bread.

“Thanks, Alex,” said Mrs Walker, finishing her cup of coffee. “But first get Sally’s bedroom ready. Remember, she’s arriving at five o’clock on the bus from Cody Airport. I’m going to cook something special tonight.”

1. **Guys** : informal American expression when talking to people.

2. **Fourth of July** : an important holiday in the USA. It is also called Independence Day. On July 4, 1776 America declared its independence from Great Britain.

Summer at Yellowstone

"I want to wear something new," said Karen. "Sally always has the nicest clothes because she lives in a big city where there are lots of shops."

"You've got some nice clothes, Karen," said her mother. "What about those new pink jeans and the white T-shirt from the rock concert?"

"You're right!" said Karen happily. "I can wear those and my new black sneakers."

"And don't forget to wear the new leather belt that grandma gave you for your birthday," said Mrs Walker.



Alex looked at his mom and sister and said, "Girls always talk about new clothes – *how boring!*"

"Boys will never understand!" said Karen, laughing.

After breakfast Alex and Karen went to see their dad, who was in bed.

"Hi, Dad!" they said. "How are you feeling this morning?"

"Hi, guys!" said Mr Walker. "My leg hurts and I didn't sleep well last night. The doctor's coming to see me later today. I'm really sorry I can't help mom with all the work. I know you two will help her. This is a busy ranger station with lots of visitors. And, even more important, we have to check all the animals in the area and make sure they're well."

"Don't worry, Dad," said Alex, "Karen and I will help you and mom."

"Thanks," he said, "but I'm worried because summer is the busiest season here at Yellowstone. There are lots of people in the park and they go camping. There's always the danger of a forest fire. Some people are very careless, you know. A forest fire is terrible. It destroys the trees, the plants and kills hundreds of animals..." Mr Walker's eyes were worried.

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“Last month you put up signs that said: ‘Be very careful with campfires!’³ said Karen. “I’m sure those signs will help.”

“Well, I hope the visitors read them,” said Mr Walker.

There were a lot of tourists waiting outside the information office at the ranger station. They all wanted maps of the park and information about the Fourth of July celebrations. Alex helped his mom in the office and Karen got Sally’s bedroom ready. It was a very busy and exciting day for everyone. At five o’clock Karen and Alex were at the bus stop waiting for their cousin. When the bus arrived, Sally was the first to get off. She was a pretty girl with long dark hair and dark eyes. She was carrying a small red suitcase.

“Hi, guys!” she shouted happily. “It’s great to see you!”

“Welcome to Yellowstone, Sally!” Karen and Alex said excitedly.

“This is going to be a great vacation,” said Karen happily.

“I’m very excited because this is my first time in a national park,” said Sally, looking around.

“You’ll never forget *this* vacation!” said Alex. “Let’s go home now. Mom’s cooking a special dinner.”

“We’re having roast turkey with cranberries, mashed potatoes, tomato salad, and apple pie⁴ with ice cream for dessert”, said Karen happily.

3. Campfires :



4. Apple pie : baked food made of pastry and filled with apples.



UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Are these sentences “Right” (A) or “Wrong” (B)? If there is not enough information to answer (A) or (B), choose “Doesn’t say” (C). There is an example at the beginning (0).

	A	B	C
0 Karen and Alex Walker are brother and sister.	☒	☐	☐
1 The ranger station is the Walker family’s home.	☐	☐	☐
2 Mr Walker is a forest ranger, and Mrs Walker works at Cody Airport.	☐	☐	☐
3 The ranger station has eight big rooms.	☐	☐	☐
4 Alex is a tall boy who likes playing basketball.	☐	☐	☐
5 Sally Farrell was born in New York, but she lives in Yellowstone.	☐	☐	☐
6 There will be big celebrations at Yellowstone on July 4.	☐	☐	☐
7 Mr Walker broke his leg in a car accident.	☐	☐	☐
8 Karen hasn’t got anything new to wear.	☐	☐	☐
9 Forest fires are a big danger in a national park.	☐	☐	☐
10 Sally took the bus from Cody Airport to Yellowstone.	☐	☐	☐

2 VOCABULARY

A Circle the word in each group which is different from the others and say why.

1 ranger	scientist	science	doctor
2 New York	Chicago	Cody	Wyoming
3 sneakers	jeans	T-shirt	jacket
4 breakfast	meal	lunch	dinner
5 bus	train	boat	car
6 cousin	friend	grandmother	uncle

B Use the odd words to complete the sentences.

- 1 There was a in the sea.
- 2 Alex’s best was Richard.
- 3 Karen’s favorite subject at school was
- 4 The Walker family live in Yellowstone National Park,
- 5 Karen’s new are black.
- 6 Mrs Walker cooked a big

3 CHARACTERS

A Look at the pictures of Sally, Karen and Alex. Can you describe them? Use the words in the box below to write some sentences about each one.



short red hair tall loves sports blue eyes long dark hair
lives in Chicago pretty plays basketball
lives in a ranger station born in New York loves animals
doesn't like math plays volleyball brown hair
wants to be a scientist lives in Yellowstone National Park

B Now describe your best friend.

4 WRITING

Sally writes a postcard to her parents in Chicago. Fill in the gaps with one word. The first is done for you.

Hi Mom and Dad!

I'm (0)ⁱⁿ..... Yellowstone National Park and I love it!
Everything here (1) beautiful. I arrived yesterday evening
(2) five o'clock and Karen and Alex met (3)
at the bus stop. It was good to see Aunt Marian (4)
Uncle George again. Uncle George broke his (5) a
week ago and now (6) is in bed. Aunt Marian is very
(7) because she has to do all the work now. But Karen,
Alex and I want (8) help her.

Love, Sally

BEFORE YOU READ

1 VOCABULARY

Match each word with its meaning.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 ☐ to track | 3 ☐ pack | 5 ☐ trail |
| 2 ☐ alert | 4 ☐ wolf collar | 6 ☐ grizzly bear |

A a group of wolves

B to find and follow an animal that is wearing a special electronic device, such as a GPS collar

C a situation when people prepare for something dangerous that could happen soon.

D a small path

E



F



2 LISTENING



Listen to the first part of Chapter Two and choose the correct answer – A, B or C.

- 1 Who calls Mrs Walker at the ranger station?
A ☐ Mr Walker
B ☐ Jack Williams
C ☐ Sally's parents
- 2 Where do Malik and Lakota live?
A ☐ In the Blue Mountains
B ☐ At Yellowstone Lake
C ☐ At Old Faithful Geyser
- 3 Who is the leader of the wolf pack?
A ☐ Lakota
B ☐ Malik
C ☐ Ranger Williams
- 4 When is the journalist from *Nature Magazine* coming to Yellowstone?
A ☐ On July 4
B ☐ Before July 4
C ☐ After July 4
- 5 How many wolves live in Yellowstone National Park?
A ☐ 110
B ☐ 100
C ☐ 120