



MUDSLIDE MADNESS

¹ Saturday morning arrived at last. Aaron and Dean leapt out of their beds and raced downstairs for breakfast. Aaron had stayed the night at Dean's new house and today they were going to the waterslide park. They'd been waiting all week for this.

Dean reached the kitchen first. The house was still being finished in some places — right now the kitchen was just a fridge and a bench, with a sink soon to be installed. Outside, the weather was a beautiful...grey.

"Oh no!" Aaron groaned when he saw the storm clouds.

² "I'm sorry boys, it's threatening to rain. We'll go to the waterslide park another time," said Dean's mum, entering the kitchen.

"Dean, your father and I are going out to do

some shopping. He needs some more stuff for the sink, and I need to buy groceries. You and Aaron can play some computer games till we get back, then we'll go out to the movies."

Aaron and Dean groaned. They had been up all night playing computer games and all they wanted to do was to go outside.

"Oh," called Dean's mum as she left the kitchen, "your father has turned the water off while he's installing the sink. Don't have a shower till he says it's okay. Alright — bye boys! Don't make any mess."

³ Once Dean's parents had driven away, the two boys started plotting. The last few days had been really hot and sticky, putting them into a mood that only a speedy slam down a waterslide could cure. There had to be something they could do.

"Hmmm," thought Aaron, "does your dad have any plastic sheeting?"

"He should do; Dad's always working on projects around the house. He should have some left over from when he was fixing up the decking. Why?" replied Dean.

"Well, we could use it to build our own waterslide. Right here in your backyard."

⁴ The two boys bolted out into the backyard. A dry summer had tortured the grass into a shrivelled, yellow-brown fuzz, leaving large patches of grey dirt everywhere. Dean hunted around in his dad's shed until he found a long sheet of black plastic. It would be perfect to slide down. Together, the boys unrolled the sheet along the flat yard.

"Cool, now grab the hose and we'll get this slide started!" Aaron was already taking his shirt off, ready to launch himself down the sheet.

⁵ Dean was walking over to the hose when he stopped, shaking his head.

"We can't use the hose, Aaron. We've got water restrictions."

They had come so close, only to be struck out in the final stretch. Aaron's shoulders slumped and he started rolling the sheet back up. As if in response, the green-grey clouds rumbled.

⁶ It started as a light patter. A few heavy drops smacked into the hard ground, leaving dark brown splatters around the backyard. They picked up speed and soon the rain was

drumming a constant beat, stirring the dirt into a squelching mud soup.

Dean and Aaron smiled at each other. What good timing! The black sheet turned slick with rainwater and, as they slipped along one after the other, it developed a messy coating of rich mud. Sometimes the boys would rocket down the sheet feet first. When they felt braver, they would fly with their faces pointing forward. Dean was a bit too fast on one run and face-planted right into the mud. Aaron couldn't stop laughing when he saw Dean's face — it looked like he had just kissed a chocolate cake.

⁷ By the time the rain stopped, the two boys were like walking mud-monsters and every step ended with a squelch.

"Your mum and dad are going to get back soon," Aaron said, "we should probably get ready to go to the movies."

Not wanting to make a mess, the boys packed up the plastic sheet and tried to hose their feet. Nothing happened — the hose was completely lifeless.

"That's right," Dean said, "Dad's turned off the water. Not to worry, we'll quickly turn it on, clean up, and turn it off before he gets back."

⁸ Dean went around to the front of the house, located their water main and twisted the tap. He could hear the main whisper as water returned. Aaron was already hosing his feet by the time Dean came back and once both boys had cleaned their feet, they went into the house. While Aaron was in the shower, Dean scrubbed the mud flakes off his hands in the

laundry. He was feeling pretty hungry after all that mudsliding and there was just enough time for him to make some toast before his parents came home.

- 9 Aaron was busy washing the grey ooze out of his hair when he heard a muffled yell from downstairs. It was coming from the kitchen.

Dean stood in the middle of the kitchen, his face displaying the kind of look someone would have after head-butting a brick wall. As soon as Aaron's feet touched the kitchen floor he realised what his friend had been yelling about. The floor was covered in water. Wet torrents were gushing from the hole where the sink was meant to be — the sink that Dean's dad was coming home to fix.

- 10 An image of the water main flashed in Dean's mind. He'd have to turn it off before his parents came home. In a panic, Dean bolted for the front door, but the floor was too slippery. With just enough time to yelp, Dean's feet flew up in front of him and he flopped down, muddy back and all, onto the dampening carpet. Mud splatters plopped onto the wall beside him.

It was then that both boys heard the sound of a car pulling into the driveway. The game was up.

"Don't make a mess, eh?" Aaron said, thinking about the movie that the boys definitely wouldn't be watching later that day.

Questions

- 1 How long had the boys been waiting to go to the waterslide park?
a all week
b all weekend
c all day
- 2 Who had to buy groceries?
a Dean's dad
b Dean's mum
c Aaron's mum
- 3 The boys chose not to use the hose to make their waterslide because
a it was raining.
b the water main was turned off.
c there were water restrictions.
- 4 What caused Dean to look like he'd kissed a chocolate cake?
a face-planting in the mud
b seeing his kitchen flooded
c sliding down the sheet feet first
- 5 When did Aaron notice what was wrong in the kitchen?
a when he tried to make some toast
b when he heard his friend yell
c when his feet hit the kitchen floor
- 6 There was one moment in this recount when the boys should have remembered not to turn on the water main. When was it?
a when they first thought about using the hose for the waterslide
b when they remembered that Dean's dad had turned off the water main
c when they saw the kitchen had been flooded



Vocabulary

Match the words from the text to the clues.

The brackets show the text sections ().

plotting outside constant sink restrictions

- 7 A bowl fixed in a kitchen (1)
8 The opposite of inside (2)
9 Scheming and planning (3)
10 To control or have limitations (5)
11 Something that is continuous (6)

Grammar

A **prefix** is a letter or letters added to the beginning of a word to change its meaning. E.g. like/**dis**like.

Add a **prefix** from the box to make words from the text.

re al an in

- 12 stalling
13 other
14 ready
15 turned

Back To The Text...

- 16 Prediction: What is likely to happen in the future?
a The boys will try to listen better.
b The boys will be rewarded with a movie.
- 17 Who do you think this text is most likely written for (audience)?
a children b adults

- 18 Another good name for this text would be:
a What Was It That Mum Said?
b The Unfinished House.

Sequencing

Look back through the card to find what happened first. Choose **a** or **b**.

- 19 a Mum and Dad went shopping.
b The boys came down for breakfast.
- 20 a Dean found a plastic sheet.
b Aaron took his shirt off.
- 21 a Dean hosed the mud off his feet.
b Aaron hosed the mud off his feet.

Think About This

- 22 A face that had just "head-butted a brick wall" (9) would look
a happy.
b angry.
c shocked.
- 23 What does "summer had tortured the grass ..." (4) mean?
a It had killed the grass.
b It has teased the grass.
c It had helped the grass grow.

Challenge Option

Vocabulary: How many words can you make from the word MUDSLIDE?

