

## Go Fetch!



We bumped along the frozen dirt-track in Jake's new Roadmaster Deluxe. It had a four-wheel drive, twelve gears, big wheels and leather seats. Jake was very proud of it. Some car!

Sam's dog, Rex, lay in the back. Everyone said that Rex was the best hunting dog around. He would fetch anything for you and bring it straight back to your car. Some dog!

The lake was frozen over, but Jake had a plan. He had brought ten sticks of dynamite in the car. He thought that we could blow a hole in the ice on the lake. There were lots of ducks and geese returning after the cold winter. They would be attracted to the clear water in the hole, and then we could shoot away. "We will be up to our necks in dead ducks," claimed Jake. "Yeah, and old Rexie here will retrieve every one of them," boasted Sam. It seemed like a great plan.

"I will bring only one stick of dynamite down to the lake. One should be enough," said Jake. "Come on, Rex!" called Sam as we set off down to the lakeshore. Rex was really excited. You could tell from his wagging tail that he knew he would get a chance to show off his skills.

Jake lit the fuse and threw the dynamite onto the middle of the lake. We ran behind a boulder and waited for the blast. I counted. "... fifteen, sixteen, seventeen..." The explosion was bigger than expected, a lot bigger. Then a large, smoking wheel flew over our heads and bounced along the lake's intact frozen surface. We looked behind us. There was no sign of the car.

As we looked at the smoking crater in the ground, we realised that Rex must have brought the lit dynamite back to the car. The other nine sticks must have exploded too. Then we heard a bark. There, sitting proudly by the boulder, was Rex, with his tail thudding against the ground. He gazed at us lovingly, proud in the knowledge that he had done his job.

## Question Time

### A

1. Where were the men going?
2. Why were they going there?
3. How many gears did the car have?
4. Who owned the car?
5. Who owned the dog?
6. What was Rex's special talent?
7. What did Jake's plan to attract birds to the lake involve?
8. What did he bring with him to carry out the plan?
9. Where did the men hide?
10. What terrible mistake did Rex make?



### B

1. Why was Jake so proud of his car?
2. Why was Sam so proud of his dog?
3. What time of the year do you think it was? Why?
4. What does the writer mean by "Some car!" and "Some dog!"?
5. In what way did the trip not go according to plan?
6. Do you think Jake and Sam will ever go hunting together again? Give reasons for your answer.
7. Who do you think would have been most relieved to see the dog safe? Why?
8. How do you know that Rex did not understand what he had done?



## Think and Talk

1. Why do people use dogs when they go hunting?
2. Do you think it was very fair or sporting of the men to use high explosives on their hunting trip? Give a reason for your answer.
3. Do you think that the men had thought the plan through very well? Why?
4. Jake might have said a few harsh things afterwards about Rex the hunting dog. What do you think he might have said to Sam about Rex?
5. Tell the story from Rex's point of view.