





Talk About It

What is the girl thinking?
What is the frog thinking?



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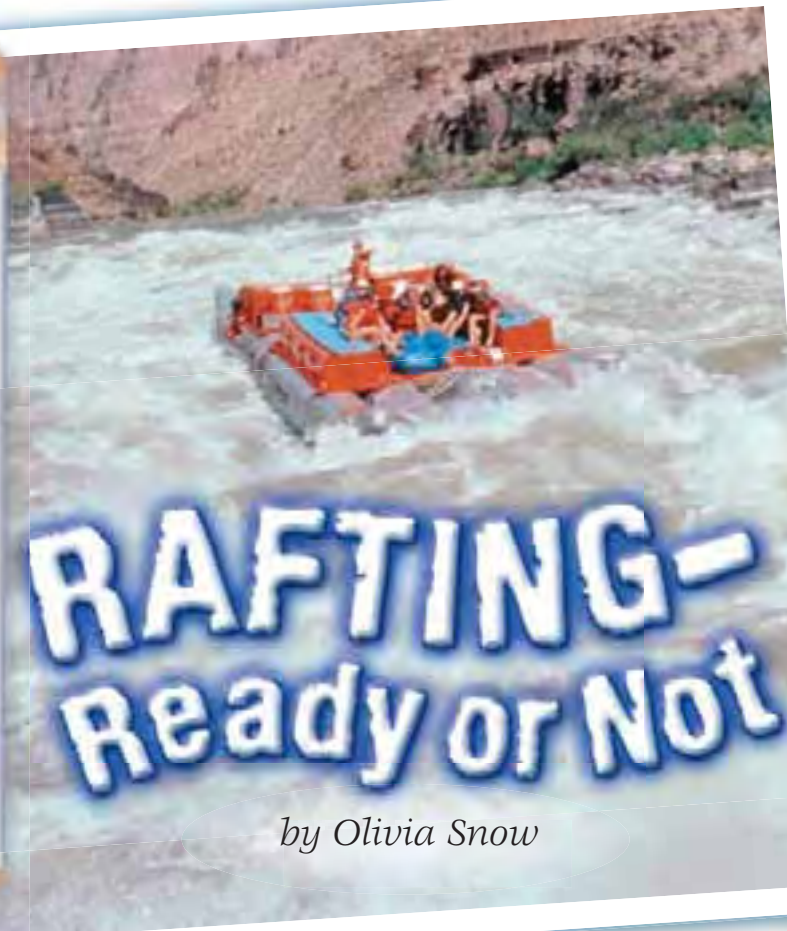
WILDLIFE WATCHERS

Vocabulary

disgusted cluttered
raft downstream
scattered nuzzle

Context Clues

Paragraph Clues are clues within the same paragraph to the meaning of an unfamiliar word. Look for clues within the paragraph where *cluttered* appears to figure out its meaning.



by Olivia Snow

Dear Diary,

What an amazing day! I never thought rafting could be so much fun. Wait... I should probably back up and explain what I was doing on a raft in the first place.

Today, my family and I started our vacation. We're taking a rafting trip down the Colorado River. I have to admit, it didn't sound like my idea of fun. The thought of getting drenched by the river and sleeping in tents with creepy bugs and spiders kind of **disgusted** me. But, unless I wanted to be left behind, I had to put on my lifejacket and join in.

Lisa, our guide, helped us get our big, rubber **raft** into the river. We joined the others, **scattered** here and there along the river. There were so many, it felt like we were playing bumper boats! Lisa had told us that the river would narrow and we would be a bit **cluttered**. Then the river widened, and the rafts spread out as we were carried in the water's flow **downstream**. At first, I just sat in the raft and listened to my music. But when we picked up speed, I realized my help was needed.

Before long, I was paddling away and enjoying the amazing wildlife overhead and along the shore. We spotted a great blue heron and a coyote. Then we watched a mother beaver **nuzzle** her young gently with her snout. Lisa said that if we looked carefully, we might even see a mountain lion!

I have to admit that when it was time to get off the river and set up camp, I actually felt

disappointed. But it gave us a chance to appreciate the beauty of the Grand Canyon. The sunset was amazing. It made the red and gold colors of the canyon walls positively glow.

We'll be back on the river early tomorrow, so I'd better zip up my sleeping bag and get to sleep.



Reread for Comprehension



Make Inferences and Analyze Character, Setting, Plot

Knowing the setting of a story can help readers make inferences and analyze why certain events occur and why characters feel or act the way they do.

A Setting Flow Chart can help you keep track of the setting, character, and events of a story. Reread the selection to learn how the story's setting affects the main character.

