

CHAPTER 11

‘Follow me’, said Hawkeye. ‘Be careful to walk on the rocks and on pieces of wood.’ The men did as Hawkeye told them. ‘Now your trail will be difficult to follow’, said Hawkeye. ‘You can always find footprints on grass, but not on wood or stone. It’s good that I left your boots at home. Your moccasins won’t leave a print and it’s easier to walk in moccasins.’

On the shore of the lake Uncas pushed a canoe into the water, taking care not to leave marks in the sand. The men climbed into the canoe and the Mohicans paddled it away from the shore.

The day dawned. They travelled across the lake and found many little islands. It was possible the Indians were still in the area. For this reason they had to travel in silence. Mingachook pointed to a cloud that was rising into the sky from one of the islands.

‘It’s smoke from a fire’, said Hawkeye. By the northern shore of the island, they saw two canoes.

‘They haven’t seen us yet’, said Hawkeye. ‘Let’s go.’ But before he had finished speaking they heard the crack of a rifle. The Hurons had seen them and ran to their canoes and pushed them into the water. Hawkeye and the Mohicans continued to paddle and their canoe moved forward swiftly.

‘Keep this distance between our canoe and theirs’, said Hawkeye. ‘The bullets from their rifles will not reach us.’ He put down his paddle and aimed his rifle at the enemy.

Glossary

- **paddled:** moved a boat using wooden oars
- **print:** (here) mark of a foot or shoe
- **swiftly:** quickly

He waited for their canoe to come into range[•], but before he could fire, another canoe appeared. The canoes raced each other through the water. The Hurons paddled as fast as they could to catch Hawkeye's canoe, but there was no opportunity for them to fire their guns.

'We're right in their firing line^{••}', said Heyward.

Chingachgook gave the war-whoop of the Mohicans. The Hurons shouted out the names of Hawkeye and the Mohican: 'Long Rifle!' 'Big Snake!' 'Bounding Deer!'

Hawkeye waved his rifle at the Hurons. The Indians answered back with bullets that hit the surface of the water. Hawkeye aimed at the Indians' canoe and fired. The Huron at the bow of the first canoe fell backwards and dropped his gun into the water. Hawkeye and the Mohicans took advantage of the confusion and increased the distance between them and the Hurons' canoe.

The lake now grew wider, and on each side there were high mountains. They paddled now with more regular strokes[•]. It seemed to Heyward that for Hawkeye and the Mohicans the race was just like a game. Chingachgook directed the canoe towards the hills and the fort at Ticonderoga. The Hurons were far behind them. It looked as though they had given up. As they passed, Hawkeye kept watch for several hours until they reached the north side of the lake.

There were thick bushes on the side of the lake. This helped them to stay hidden. They continued their journey until Hawkeye said it was safe to land. They rested until it was evening. Then, they started their journey again and travelled silently towards the western shore. Uncas steered the canoe safely to the land.

• **come into range:** be close enough to shoot

• **firing line:** in the direct line of a gun
• **strokes:** arm movements

PRACTICAL SKILLS

What practical skills have you got that would help you survive outdoors like Hawkeye and the Mohicans? Tick (✓) what you could do.

- Paddle a canoe
- Swim
- Ride a horse
- Make a fire
- Catch fish
- Cook a meal
- Use a compass
- Walk long distances
- Climb rocks
- Get directions by reading the stars

The men carried the boat into the woods and hid it under some tree branches. A few minutes later they picked up their guns and supplies and started the next part of their journey.



CHAPTER 12

10 Hawkeye led the party into a large, deserted area of woods. Uncas studied the ground for tracks. Suddenly he pointed to a place where there was some fresh earth. It looked as though a large animal had recently passed that way.

‘It’s the trail’, said Hawkeye. ‘Uncas never misses any clues.’

By the middle of the afternoon they came to a place where Magua and his men had stopped to rest. The Hurons had made a fire and cooked some meat. The bones were scattered around. There had been leaves from the trees. Someone had made a bed under a bush. Heyward was sure Cora and Alice had slept there. The men moved forward in silence until they reached a hill.

‘I can smell the Hurons’, said Hawkeye. ‘We are close to their camp’. Chingachgook, go to the right of the hill. Uncas, go to the left and follow the stream. I will follow the trail. If there is a problem, croak three times like a crow.’ The Mohicans set off and Hawkeye continued with Heyward and Munro.

‘Go to the edge of the wood’, Hawkeye told Heyward. ‘Wait for me there’.

Glossary

- **scattered:** thrown in an untidy way

Hiding in the bushes, Heyward was amazed at what he saw. Over a hundred huts stood on the edge of the lake and in the water. Suddenly he heard the rustle of leaves. A short distance from him, he saw an Indian. Heyward did not move. The man had a painted face. Instead of looking fierce, Heyward thought he looked sad. He was studying the Indian when Hawkeye appeared at his side.

'Look', whispered Heyward, 'we've found their camp and here's one of them!' Hawkeye stared at the Indian.

'This is not a Huron', he said, 'and he's wearing the clothes of a white man.'

Hawkeye crept behind the man. Heyward watched. Instead of grabbing him Hawkeye tapped the man on the shoulder and said in a low voice, 'What are you doing, my friend? Are you catching the beavers to sing now?'

'That's right', said the Indian, 'why shouldn't they learn to sing, too?'

'Gamut!' said Heyward.

Glossary

- **beavers:** small animals that make their homes in rivers and lakes (see illustration)

'Where are the women?' asked Hawkeye. The men sat around Gamut waiting to hear his story.

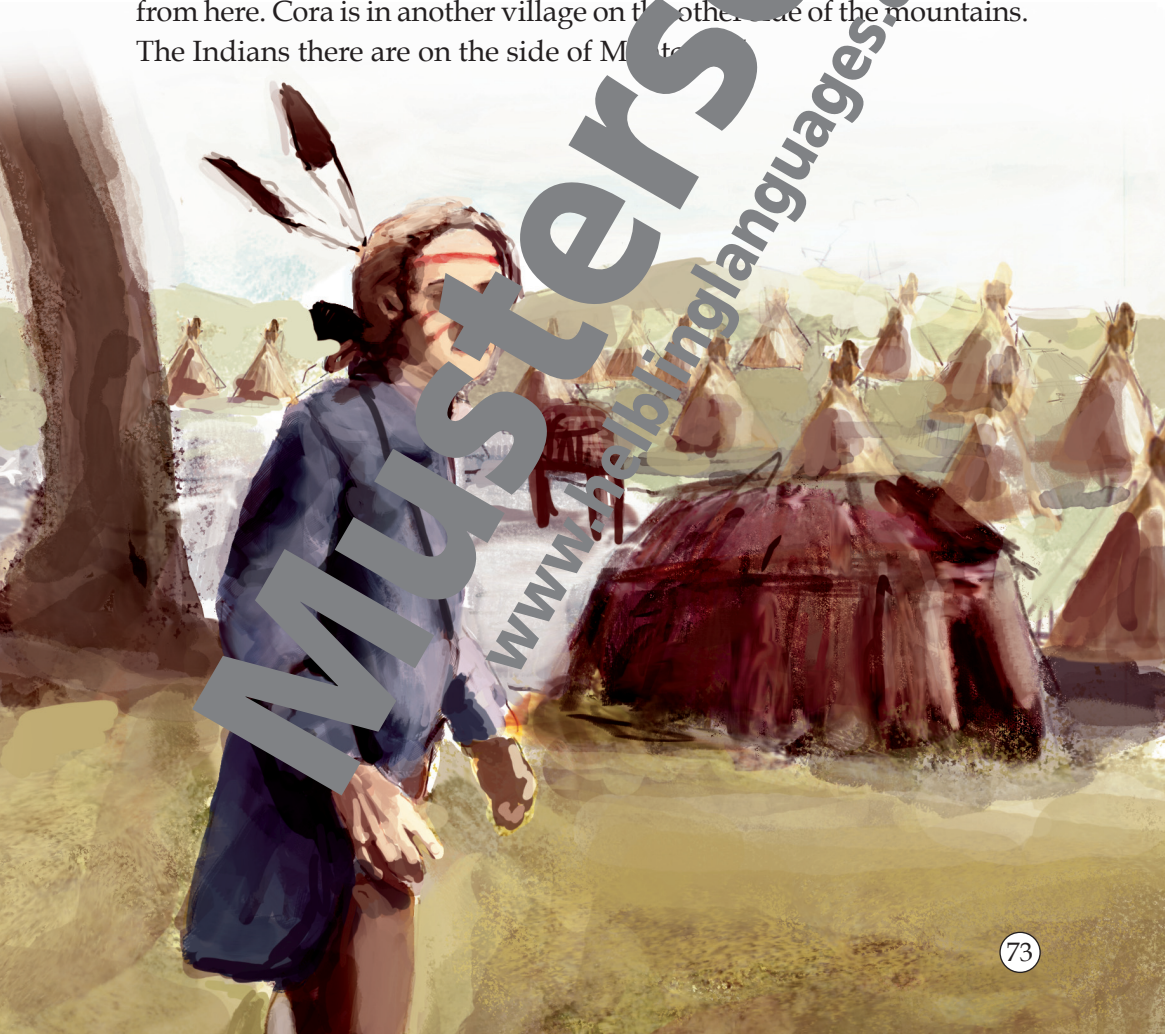
'They are prisoners of the Hurons', said Gamut. 'But they are safe and in good health.'

'Both of them?' asked Heyward.

'Yes, both of them', said Gamut. 'They had a long journey and little to eat but, apart from that, they are fine.'

'Thank goodness', said Munro. 'I'll soon get my children back.'

'Don't count on it', said Gamut. 'The Huron leader is like someone who has an evil spirit inside him. He and his men are out hunting today. They have left Alice with the Hurons some a short distance from here. Cora is in another village on the other side of the mountains. The Indians there are on the side of Montaigne.'



'Why are you allowed to walk around freely?' asked Heyward.

'They seem to like my singing', said Gamut. 'They let me come and go as I please.'

'Good', said Hawkeye. 'Now go back and tell Ali... we are coming.'

'I'll go with him', said Heyward. 'I'll pretend to be a madman or a fool. Just find me a disguise, change me, paint me... anything.'

Chingachgook took on the job of transforming Heyward. The Mohican painted Heyward's face in the traditional way of the Indians. He gave him a happy, comical expression.

'Impressive!', said Hawkeye when Chingachgook had finished.

'How do I look?' asked Heyward.

'If you speak to them in French', said Hawkeye, 'they'll think you are a juggler from Ticonderoga and that you come from a friendly tribe. Now, let's agree on our plan'



Glossar

- **disguise:** clothes or make-up that hide your true identity
- **juggler:** person who can throw and catch (juggle) lots of things at the same time
- **took on:** accepted
- **transforming:** changing

After Reading

Characters

1 Who is your favourite character? Write notes about him/her.

Name	
Nationality/Tribe	
Appearance	
Skills/Abilities	

2 Read the sentences below. Who do they describe - Alice or Cora?



- a) She has long golden hair. _____
- b) She enjoys singing. _____
- c) She is calm and quiet person. _____
- d) She is very frightened. _____
- e) She thinks of other people before herself. _____
- f) She has a lot. _____
- g) She is very wise. _____

3 What do you think about the author's female characters Alice and Cora? Which would you choose as your friend, and why? Tell the class.

4 Write the names of the characters beside the sentences.


- a) He had a tattoo of a small blue tortoise on his chest. _____
- b) He pretended to be Uncas. _____
- c) He pretended to be a doctor. _____
- d) He carried a tomahawk and a knife, and wore no ornaments except for an eagle feather. _____
- e) He met his wife in the West Indies. _____
- f) He wore Indian moccasins and buckskin trousers. _____
- g) He pretended he didn't know English. _____
- h) He sent no reinforcements to Fort William Henry. _____
- i) He was courteous and welcoming. _____

- 5** Imagine you are a journalist. What questions would you ask Heyward? Ask and answer with your partner.



6 Describe the relationship between the following characters. What do they have in common? How are they different? What is the link between them?

- a) Hatterrabe and Chingachgook
- b) Cora and Alice
- c) Alice and Heyward
- d) Cora and Magua
- e) Munroe and Montcalm

-  **3 Work with a partner to ask and answer the questions above.**

Has Hawkeye ever fired a rifle?

Yes, he has.

- 4 Complete the questions with *How long*, *How old* or *How many*. Then answer the questions correctly.**

- _____ did it take Magua to run to Fort Edward from Fort William Henry?
- _____ men did Montcalm have?
- _____ was Munro married to Cora's mother?
- _____ languages did Heyward speak?
- _____ was Alice's age?
- _____ had the war between the French and the English lasted?
- _____ was the war?

- 5 Choose *could* / *was able to* / *couldn't* / *couldn't manage to* / *managed to*.**

- Uncas *was able to* / *couldn't* / *managed to* swim down the river to safety.
- Heyward *could* / *wasn't able to* / *managed to* help Alice because his hands were tied together.
- Cora *was able to* / *couldn't* / *didn't manage to* leave her glove behind as a clue.
- Magua *couldn't* / *managed to* / *wasn't able to* stay calm when she spoke to Magua.
- The bullets from the Indian's rifles *could not* / *were not able to* / *didn't manage to* reach them.
- The old *squaw* *managed to* / *could* / *wasn't able to* frighten the Huron warrior.

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www.helblinglanguages.com