

# The tent



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Just as the sun was beginning to rise on a warm summer morning, there appeared the silhouette of a small tent on the outskirts of the village.

While the birds chirped, the villagers murmured amongst themselves, trying to come up with an explanation for their new neighbour. This tent had never been seen before and no one dared to go remotely close to it for they feared that danger lurked in the distance. The villagers were suspicious as to why anyone would set up camp so close to their village because they were located in a very isolated part of the forest, far away from the main road.

When the sun was at its highest point in the sky, one villager decided that he had to find out why the strange tent had been set up so close to their village. This villager was not well liked by the other villagers because all he cared about was himself. As he ventured nearer, he saw no signs of life. There was an intoxicating aroma that surrounded the tent, the smell of meat being cooked.

The villager kept his distance, staying out of sight. Suddenly, an old mysterious man emerged from the tent. He was dressed in a bizarre fashion. The colour of his strange robes were a colour that could only be seen on flowers. There is no way this man could be a threat to the village, he thought. He is too small and frail to do any harm, this man must be a meat merchant. Yes, that would explain the smell. The villager approached the mysterious man from the tent.

??? Hello.??? said the mysterious man.??? Hello,??? replied the villager. ??? You must be a traveling merchant, I could smell your meat from far away.??????? Why yes I am.

??? ??? What kind of meat do you sell??????? Only the rarest of meats. The animals I hunt are the most dangerous predators in all the land. Luckily, these creatures are extremely greedy and fall for my traps.?????? Which animals do you speak of??????? It is a surprise.??????? May I taste some??????? Why of course,??? said the mysterious man with a sinister grin on his face. The villager proceeded into the tent. To his surprise, he did not see any kind of weapons that could be used for hunting.

In fact, the only items in the tent were three bags of the rare meat, an empty bag, a table, and a large cleaver.??? Try some,??? the mysterious man pleaded. On the table sat a freshly cooked piece of the rare meat.

Curiously, the villager examined the meat. It smelt unlike anything he had ever encountered before. The villager could not resist the tempting scent. Within seconds, the villager had devoured the mouth-watering meat. All of the sudden, the villager realized the mysterious man had disappeared. I must find out what animal that is, he thought. Peering around the tent, there was nothing besides the table, the meat, the empty bag and himself. The merchant must have gone out to get more of his delicious rare meat for me to eat, he said to himself.

The villager exited the tent in search of the mysterious man.??? Merchant, I demand you tell me what greedy creature you hunt,??? shouted the villager as he wandered around the tent.??? Surprise!??? screamed the mysterious man as he waived the large cleaver menacingly high in the air. Just as the sun was beginning to set, the villagers gazed upon the outskirts of the

village. As each one looked at the spot where once stood a mysterious tent, they breathed a sigh of relief.

The merchant had packed up and traveled elsewhere. The danger had passed.