

STD 3 NATIONAL LEARNING ASSESSMENT
MENTOR TEXT – BOOKLET 9

EASTER ADVENTURE

It was last Easter vacation, and instead of just staying home, my parents surprised my sister, Lily, and me with a trip to the Aripo Caves. I had learned about caves in school, but I never thought I would actually get to explore one! Early one morning, we all piled into the car with our backpacks filled with snacks, water, and flashlights. The drive to Aripo was long and winding, going through green hills and past little villages. When we finally got there, it felt like we were in a completely different world. The entrance to the cave was like a big, dark mouth at the side of a hill, surrounded by huge trees and the sounds of the forest.

Our adventure started as soon as we stepped inside. It was cool and damp, and the air smelled earthy. It smelt like a mixture of dirt and moss. It was also really dark, and we had to use our flashlights to see where we were going. The cave was like a maze of tunnels and big open spaces. Water was dripping from the ceiling in some parts, and we had to watch out for slippery rocks on the ground.

What made it so exciting was discovering all the amazing things inside. We saw bats of all sizes flying overhead. Did I mention that bats terrified Lily? Well, one flew straight into Lily's face as we walked which caused a big commotion. Lilly started screaming, flinging her hands into the air and dropped her flashlight, which broke. This commotion alerted other bats, as they started flying around aimlessly. It's like we were prey, and they were predators as they circled us in the air. They were a little spooky, but I happened to like seeing them fly in a swarm.

The best part was when we reached a huge open chamber deep inside the cave. It was so big that our flashlight beams couldn't reach the ceiling! There were tiny little creatures crawling on the walls, and the silence in that big space was like nothing I had ever heard before. It was extremely quiet. It felt like we had discovered a secret world hidden underground. We spent a few hours exploring the cave, carefully making our way through the darkness. It was a little bit scary at times, especially when our flashlights flickered, but it was mostly just thrilling. I felt like a real adventurer, just like in the movies!

When we finally came back out into the sunlight, everything looked so bright and green. We were all a little muddy, but we were also buzzing with excitement. We talked about all the amazing things we had seen in the cave all the way home. It was the most exciting adventure I've ever had with my family, and I can't wait for our next one!

