

Name: _____

Swing Set Time Machine

by Kelly Hashway

Alex positioned the swing on its lowest setting, just barely off the ground when he sat on it. He held onto the chains with both hands and leaned back as far as his arms would reach. In his reclined position, he walked his feet back and began his countdown.



"Five, four, three, two, one, blastoff!" He picked up his feet, and the swing whipped forward. Alex watched the blades of grass blowing inches beneath him. "Next stop, the jungle to meet up with Tarzan!"

Alex cl
marked the y
was the only k
the lowest setting.



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Swirling colors
knew, he
positioned on

The sound of the neighbor's barking dog transformed into gorillas grunting. The swing slowed to a stop, and Alex opened his eyes.

The jungle stood before him. Trees, vines, gorillas, and the face of his good friend Tarzan.

"Hi, Tarzan," Alex said, jumping off the swing.

"Right on time, Alex. I was just about to go on an adventure."

"Yes!" Alex yelled, raising his fist in the air.

"Alex," a voice called from far away.

"Not again," Alex said, turning toward the house. "What, Mom?"

"Becca's on her way over."

"I was playing on my swings." He'd never told Mom about his time machine or his adventures

with Tarzan.

"Great. I'm sure Becca would love to play on the swings with you."

Play with a girl? And on his time machine? Alex wasn't so sure about that.

Becca walked over from next door. "Hi. What are you doing?"

"Playing on the swings."

"Oh. I was reading, but my mom said I should come play with you."

"Reading what?" Alex asked.

"A book about Tarzan and Jane."

Jane! Alex had forgotten all about Jane. "You like Tarzan?"

"Yeah. I wish I could go to a jungle."

Alex looked at the swings. He adjusted the second swing to the lowest setting. "Here," he said.

"Isn't that a little low?" Becca asked.

Alex wh
in the jungle."

Becca'

Alex sm



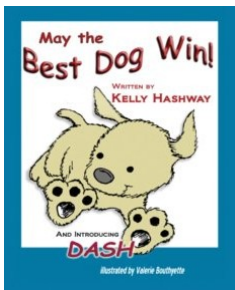
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and we'll be

Note From the Author

I used to pretend my swing set could take me anywhere, and I always had to set my swing on the lowest setting, just like Alex does in this story.



May the Best Dog Win

Kelly Hashway's latest book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available! Ask for it at your library or local bookseller.

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1. What is this story mostly about?
 - a. a boy who can travel in time using his swing set
 - b. a boy who doesn't want his friend to know about his swing set
 - c. a boy who likes to pretend his swing set is a time machine
 - d. a boy who visits the jungle and finds a swing set

2. Why did Becca come over to visit Alex?
 - a. She wanted to see how the time machine worked.
 - b. Her mother told her to.
 - c. Alex's mother invited her.
 - d. She wanted to tell Alex about the book she was reading.

3. Where

- a.
- c.



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4. Describe

5. Re-read the following sentence from the story.

The sound of the neighbor's barking dog transformed into gorillas grunting.

Which is the best definition for the underline word?

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------|
| a. changed | b. disappeared |
| c. moved | d. stopped making noise |

6. How did Alex feel when his mother first told him Becca was coming over?

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Match each vocabulary word from the story to the correct definition.

_____ 1. positioned

a. an exciting trip

_____ 2. barely

b. rainforest

_____ 3. jungle

c. large monkeys

_____ 4. i



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_____ 5. i

ed

_____ 6. raced

f. put in a certain place

_____ 7. forgotten

g. pictures

_____ 8. gorillas

h. hurried

◆ **Now try this:** Write three sentences on your own. In each sentence, use one of the vocabulary words above.

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In the story, "Swing Set Time Machine," Alex pretends his swing set in a time machine.

If you had a time machine, what year would you travel to? What would you see and do when you arrived there?



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ANSWER KEY

Swing Set Time Machine

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 - a.
 - b.
 - c.



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4. Describe the type of place where Tarzan and Jane would live.

Tarzan and Jane live in the jungle, surrounded by vines, trees, and gorillas.

5. Re-read the following sentence from the story.

The sound of the neighbor's barking dog transformed into gorillas grunting.

Which is the best definition for the underline word? **a**

- a. changed**
 - b. disappeared
 - c. moved
 - d. stopped making noise
6. How did Alex feel when his mother first told him Becca was coming over?

He was disappointed because he wasn't sure he wanted to play with a girl and he wasn't sure he wanted to tell her about his imaginary time machine.

ANSWER KEY

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