

15. Sea Otter Attack by Carrie Beckwith

A ¹Five-year-old Wyatt Storm was rescued by his dog Friday afternoon from a sea otter attack. ²The boy was swimming with his older sister about one quarter mile out from Guardian Beach.

B ³Witness Karen Klaxir reported what happened next. ⁴"I heard the cries of a small child, but I couldn't tell who or where exactly the cries were coming from. ⁵There were so many people on the beach and in the water."

C ⁶Family dog Kyra sprang into action.

⁷The German shepherd mix ran into the ocean and swam straight to the children.

⁸Witness John McCartney explained, "She knew exactly where to go, and she didn't waste any time getting there."

D ⁹Wyatt's ten-year-old sister Janet, who was swimming with her brother, reported that the sea otter had grabbed him and then dragged him underwater. ¹⁰The dog grabbed the boy's swim trunks with her teeth and pulled him away from the sea otter.

E ¹¹Abrahm Storm, the father, heard his daughter's screams and swam out to get his son from the dog. ¹²Abrahm then carried Wyatt back to shore, his daughter Janet swimming just behind them.

F ¹³Then Kyra was attacked by the sea otter. ¹⁴"I couldn't tell who was winning the battle. ¹⁵One just kept rolling over the other," an observer noted. ¹⁶Kyra was taken under by the sea otter several times before finally managing to get away.



G ¹⁷Five-year-old Wyatt suffered no serious injuries. ¹⁸Kyra was rushed to the local animal hospital to treat several wounds to the head and is now recovering in the comfort of her owner's home.

H ¹⁹In a televised interview last night, the boy's father said, "There is a special bond between those two. ²⁰I think Kyra considers Wyatt one of her own."

I ²¹Biologist Steve Chan at Stanford Marine Station was perplexed about the attack. ²²"This type of aggressive behavior is unusual for the sea otter, although it is certainly capable of causing harm if it feels its young are being threatened. ²³That may have been the case with this situation. ²⁴The boy is lucky to be alive."

DIRECTIONS: Choose or write the best answer to each of the following questions using the evidence presented in the passage. When required, list specific sentence numbers or paragraph letters from the story to support the answer.

1. Number the following events in the order they actually occurred.

_____ Kyra grabs the boy's swim trunks.

_____ A sea otter grabs hold of Wyatt.

_____ Kyra goes to the hospital.

_____ Kyra swims out to get Wyatt.

_____ Abrahm swims into the ocean.

2. Which of these traits best describes Kyra?

A. playful
B. protective
C. unpredictable
D. vicious

List the numbers of the 4 sentences that best support the answer.

_____, _____, _____, _____

3. Using paragraphs F–I, list three sentences that support the idea that sea otters can be aggressive.

_____, _____, _____

4. Mark the following statements F for fact or O for opinion.

_____ The otter attacked the boy because it was protecting its young.

_____ Kyra was attacked by the sea otter.

_____ Kyra considers Wyatt one of her own.

_____ The boy was swimming about 1/4 mile out from the beach.

5. Why do you think one of the witnesses didn't get to the children before the dog?

List the numbers of the 2 sentences that best support the answer. _____, _____

6. How might Kyra respond if she detected a burglar trying to crawl into Wyatt's room?

7. Describe the time and place of the attack.

Give the letter of the paragraph that best supports the answer. _____

8. What is the best explanation for what might have caused the sea otter to attack the boy?

A. It was provoked by the dog.
B. It was protecting its young.
C. It was hungry.
D. It was sick and wounded.

List the numbers of the 2 sentences that best support the answer.

_____, _____

Answers

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1. Number the following events in the order they actually occurred.
(sequence events)

3 Kyra grabs the boy's swim trunks.

1 A sea otter grabs hold of Wyatt.

5 Kyra goes to the hospital.

2 Kyra swims out to get Wyatt.

4 Abrahm swims into the ocean.

2. Which of these traits best describes Kyra?
(character trait)

A. playful

B. protective

C. unpredictable

D. vicious

4 best evidence sentences: **6, 7, 8, 10**

3. Using paragraphs F–I, list three sentences that support the idea that sea otters can be aggressive.
(supporting detail)

Sentences **13, 16, 22**

4. Mark the following statements F for fact or O for opinion. (fact/opinion)

O The otter attacked the boy because it was protecting its young.

F Kyra was attacked by the sea otter.

O Kyra considers Wyatt one of her own.

F The boy was swimming about 1/4 mile out from the beach.

Explanation: The first and third statements cannot be proven; therefore, they are opinions. The second and last statements are facts because they can be proven by a reliable source (the newspaper reporter).

5. Why do you think the witness didn't get to the children before the dog? (inference)

She probably couldn't tell who or where the cries were coming from.

2 best evidence sentences: **4, 5**

6. How might Kyra respond if she detected a burglar trying to crawl into Wyatt's room?
(prediction)

Kyra would probably respond by attacking the burglar because she is a protective dog.

7. Describe the time and place of the attack.
(setting)

The attack took place on a Friday afternoon at Guardian Beach. The children and the otter were about 1/4 mile out from the shore.

1 best evidence paragraph: **A**

8. What is the best explanation for what might have caused the sea otter to attack the boy?
(cause/effect)

A. It was provoked by the dog.

B. It was protecting its young.

C. It was hungry.

D. It was sick and wounded.

2 best evidence sentences: **22, 23**