



'UTTERLY
SPLENDID'
Philip Pullman



The
EXPLORER

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THE AUTHOR OF
Rooftoppers

BLOOMSBURY



Imagine that you are one of the children in the plane crash.

What would be your main priority once you realise that the pilot is dead and you are stranded in the jungle?

Task two

'The others were asleep, sprawled on their stomachs in the warmth of the den. He scrambled out of the shelter and ran down to the river where he'd stacked the wood. The sun was hot and the air was clear; his skin had already burnt a furious red, but he barely felt it as he knelt by the pile of branches. He looped each of the branches together with lianas, working a figure of eight, tying them so many times over that the raft was deep green, every inch embroidered with vines. Fred worked fast, biting down on his wrist and swearing as quietly as he could when he drove a thorn into his thumb. He made four squares, each about six foot by six foot. Then he stacked them into two thicker squares, and tied the two squares together, tugging the knots tight with his teeth.

'Yuck.' He spat out a beetle. Then he stood back.' (pages 75–76)



Read the extract from the book and complete the following comprehension questions/tasks:

1. What word does Fred use to describe the den? What does this suggest he feels about it?
2. What does Fred leave the den to do?
3. What time of day do you think it is in the extract?
4. What words or phrases used give hints about the setting?
5. What words would you use to describe Fred in this extract? What words or phrases used give hints about the setting? What words would you use to describe Fred in this extract?