

**GRADE: 8 UNIT 2: ELEPHANTS RAID THE KITCHEN SUBJECT: ENGLISH**

**I. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

1. Who was Tuskless? How was she drawn to the camp?

Tuskless was a female elephant, a part of the herd that lived close to where the author and her friends were camping. She was drawn to the camp because of the smell of food items, especially bananas since she was very fond of them.

2. How had Tuskless developed a taste for bananas?

One day at the lodge feeding place, Tuskless was given a whole stalk of overripe, almost fermented, bananas. She ate them with great relish. From that day on she developed a taste for bananas and particularly sought them out.

3. How did the elephants enter the kitchen?

Tuskless wrapped her trunk around the main sisal pole of the tent and wrenched it away. The other elephants moved forward and also started pulling on other poles and the wire. Tuskless quickly made a sizeable hole in one wall of the kitchen. Then she became impatient and leaned her head against the wall and pushed. The building swayed before collapsing sideways. This is how the elephants entered the kitchen.

4. Getting food out of the tent was not easy for Tuskless. Explain.

Getting food out of the tent was not easy for Tuskless. She had to break through the kitchen walls and turn out trunks. At one point she even ‘became impatient’ enough to lean on a wall causing the kitchen to collapse. Even after all the fresh food was gone she had to knock down and smash the cupboard to get to the rest of the food but she was undeterred.

5. What was ‘near ecstasy’ for the raiders?

All the food that the elephants gobbled up—the fruits which could be placed whole in the mouth and crushed, and other items—was a feast for the elephants. It was near ecstasy for them to find such a store of food in one place.

6. What did the narrator first do on her arrival at the camp?

As soon as she realized that the camp was being raided by elephants, without getting off the car, she rushed at the elephants in the vehicle to chase them away. Once they had left, she climbed down and crawled into the kitchen because she could hear and smell gas escaping. She found the gas cylinder and removed the regulator to close off the valve.

7. Why did the narrator blame herself for the mess?

The narrator blamed herself because she felt she should have known better and taken the necessary steps to put all the food items safely out of the herd’s reach, especially since her camp had been raided before.

8.Camping in the forest is not without hazards. Bring this out with reference to the story.

There is a constant danger of attacks from wild animals, especially herds of elephants that are drawn to the camp because of the smell of the food. There may be accidents waiting to happen as well. For instance, a fire.

9. What should have warned the narrator about the elephants’ intentions?

Earlier that same evening the author and her friends had seen Tuskless heading in their direction. They should have guessed her intentions.

10. How does the narrator feel about elephants – compassion or disgust? Give reasons.

Compassion. Even though she is angry at the elephants for raiding the kitchen, she does not want them to get hurt.

11. Tick the traits that best describe Tuskless. Discuss the reasons.

Intelligent—she knows how to find food and calls her friends to join her to reach it. Greedy—she not only goes after the bananas she loves but also all the other food items in the vicinity. Opportunistic—she goes after the food as soon as she realizes there is no human being around to chase her away. Risk-taker—she goes after the food as soon as she realizes there is no human being around to chase her away. And she raids and tears down the whole camp.