A Storyteller

In my early 20s, after a year and a half in England, and four months in France, I returned to the United States and got a job at a camp in northern Virginia. My 30 _____ that summer was Dan from Mississippi, and I am from Rhode Island. We worked together with a group of boys from 12 to 14 years old. I've always been a bit untidy, but Dan was 31 _____ and clean, even after a night in the woods with our campers. We could not have been more different, but we got on because we shared the same 32 _____ of humor.

At the end of the summer, a few of us went to 33 _____ a cave in West Virginia and got stuck in the cave for the night. It wasn't as dramatic as it sounds. The park rangers had told us to stay there if anything happened. They knew where we were going, and when we should have been back. Dan hurt his right foot badly. So we had to 34 _____ the night in the cave. Food and water were not a problem, but we turned off our lights to save power. In the distance, we could hear the sound of running water.

To 35 _____ the time, we told stories. That night in the cave we moved from one family story to another. As the night wore on, I remembered more and more. I was not alone — the cave, the blue light and the flowing water released stories and memories that we had never revealed to anyone. It was as if a river of stories had started flowing in each of us.

When the rangers came the next morning, we didn't want to 36 _____. 'Can't we just tell a few more stories?' In the cave, that night, I became a storyteller.

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