

Theme: Adventures

Complete the passage by filling in each blank with a suitable word of your own.

Charlie signalled for me to stop. A few metres **1** _____ of us, pine branches swayed, shook and snapped. I heard the bellow of an animal breathing, a low growl. We **2** _____ standing deep in the wilds. There was little doubt about what was causing the commotion. It was a bear having its meal.

Ensnared in a booby trap of brush **3** _____ nowhere to hide, I felt an overwhelming urge to run. But Charlie surged forward. "Come on," he said. "Let's go and say hello."

This kind of bear-meet-human encounter was precisely **4** _____. Charlie was after. Here in remote Kamchatka, it was the **5** _____ setting. There were plenty of bears. The nearest road was 190 kilometres **6** _____.

Bears and humans **7** _____ an ugly history. In the 1800s, an estimated 50,000 bears roamed from California to America's Great Plains. Since then, people have shot, poisoned and trapped bears **8** _____ today. Only about 1200 of them **9** _____. For their part, bears typically kill two or three people a year, a low number **10** _____ the thousands of human-bear encounters.

Charlie would like to change all that. This unlikely peacemaker wanted to **11** _____ that bears and humans could coexist without bloodshed. Of course,

Charlie's research could get **12** _____ killed. That was not comforting as I heard the crack of a solid object being crushed between powerful jaws.

"She's just up here," Charlie called out. "Come on."

Approaching a bear in a thick tangle was somewhere between surreal **13** _____ stupid. Still, Charlie's enthusiasm drew me into the thicket.

There she was. The bear's coat was almost blond with two dark patches around her eyes. At the sound of our voices, her giant head swung **14** _____ our direction, her nostrils flaring. She recognised Charlie, then fixed her gaze at me. I tried to exude confidence, which was difficult to do. We were just two metres apart. The moment stretched until it seemed it would snap. **15** _____ she returned to feed herself.

Answers:

- 1. ahead
- 2. were
- 3. with
- 4. what
- 5. perfect
- 6. away
- 7. have
- 8. until
- 9. remain
- 10. considering
- 11. prove / show
- 12. himself
- 13. and
- 14. in
- 15. Then