

Progress Monitoring Probe 3

A Tour of Jewel Cave

“Ready to explore?” asked Maria’s father. Maria, her dad, and her five-year-old brother, Carlo, had just arrived at Jewel Cave National Monument. This was the kind of outing Maria’s father loved. “You’re going to see some amazing formations,” he said enthusiastically. On the way to the cave, Maria’s dad had explained how crystals could be seen hanging from the cave’s ceilings. “That’s why they call it Jewel Cave,” he explained.	9
At the cave’s entrance, they each got a lantern to light their way. Maria felt her heart pounding as an elevator took them down into the cave’s depths. When the doors opened, she felt a blast of cold air.	21
“It’s about forty-nine degrees in here year round,” said the tour guide. Maria was glad she was wearing suitable clothing. She had chosen rubber-soled boots, long pants, and a jacket. Leading the way, the guide advised everyone to be careful, since parts of the winding path were slippery. Then the group walked down some steep, wooden steps into a large room where the crystals made strange, waxy formations. Maria loved the way the light sparkled off them.	31
It was about that time that Carlo began to complain.	41
“I want to leave, because I’m cold and Jewel Cave is boring,” he whined.	52
Suddenly, there was a rush of wind accompanied by a high-pitched noise. Some of the lanterns blew out as dark shapes flew toward the group. Carlo grabbed Maria’s hand, closed his eyes, and ducked his head.	62
“Don’t worry,” laughed their dad. “It’s just the bats.”	72
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“They like it here, too,” said the tour guide. The bats passed overhead, flying into another room.	272
“Now are you bored?” asked Maria.	277
“Don’t you dare tease me,” said Carlo, pulling her forward to see what was up ahead.	283
When they got back home, Carlo told everyone how much he enjoyed exploring the cave. He was already planning the things he would see and do the next time they went to visit Jewel Cave.	294
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