

Introduction

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<http://www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish-podcasts-stories-poems.htm>

This support pack contains the following materials:

- The poem that you can listen to in the podcast
- A comprehension activity based on the poem.

Read the poem**The Man Hunt**

by Madison Cawein

The woods stretch wild to the mountain side,
And the brush is deep where a man may hide,

They have brought the bloodhounds up again
To the roadside rock where they found the slain.

They have brought the bloodhounds up, and they
Have taken the trail to the mountain way.

Three times they circled the trail and crossed,
And thrice they found it and thrice they lost.

Now straight through the pines and the
underbrush
They follow the scent through the forest's hush.

And their deep-mouthed bay is a pulse of fear
In the heart of the wood that the man must hear.

The man who crouches among the trees
From the stern-faced men that follow these.

A huddle of rocks that the ooze has mossed —
And the trail of the hunted again is lost.

An upturned pebble; a bit of ground
A heel has trampled—the trail is found.

And the woods re-echo the bloodhounds' bay
As again they take to the mountain way.

A rock; a ribbon of road; a ledge,
With a pine-tree clutching its crumbling edge.

A pine, that the lightning long since clove,
Whose huge roots hollow a ragged cave.

A shout; a curse; and a face aghast,
And the human quarry is laired at last.

The human quarry, with clay-clogged hair
And eyes of terror, who waits them there;

That glares and crouches and rising then
Hurls clods and curses at dogs and men.

Until the blow of a gun-butt lays
Him stunned and bleeding upon his face.

A rope, a prayer, and an oak-tree near.
And a score of hands to swing him clear.

A grim black thing for the setting sun
And the moon and the stars to look upon.

After reading

Exercise 1

Decide if each of the 15 statements about the poem are True or False.

1	There was an open area between the forest and the side of the mountain.	
2	The man had got a brush to hide.	
3	The dogs had been there before.	
4	There was a dead body by the side of the road.	
5	The dogs led them up the mountain.	
6	The dogs found it easy to follow the scent.	
7	It was quiet in the forest.	
8	The dogs were afraid.	
9	The man was deep in the forest.	
10	The place where they lost the trail for the second time was damp.	
11	They found a trampled heel on the trail.	
12	The pine-tree was broken.	
13	The man didn't surrender immediately.	
14	His captors shot him in the face.	
15	The man was lynched.	

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Answers

Exercise 1: 1. False (F); 2. F; 3. True (T); 4. T; 5. T; 6. F; 7. T; 8. F; 9. T; 10. T; 11. F; 12. T; 13. T; 14. F; 15. T