

# It Never Snows on Guam!

My dad was in the U.S. Navy when I was a little girl, and so my sisters 17  
and I never knew what kind of adventures were just around the corner. One 31  
of the most exciting experiences we had was when we moved to Guam, a 45  
small sunny island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Our dad was already 59  
there, waiting for us to join him. 66

It took more than three weeks to sail to Guam on a large ship that was 82  
very old. There were no other families on the ship and it was a long and 98  
lonely trip since the crew was too busy to spend time with us. During the trip 114  
we went through a hurricane at sea, which was pretty scary in that old tub 129  
of a boat! 132

We finally sailed into Guam's harbor in the middle of the night and 145  
soon found ourselves in a native village. It was the only place on the island 160  
that had a house to rent. When we walked across the yard to the front 175  
door, something crunched under our feet. We couldn't see what it was in 188  
the dark, but in the morning we saw that the crunching sound was made 202  
from walking over a yard full of giant snails!! 211

The house that we lived in was built high above the ground. It had a 226  
tin roof that leaked whenever it rained and a wooden floor with knotholes in 240  
it. Since it rained every afternoon, our new home and everything in it was 254  
very wet at first. My mother never gave up and she didn't run out of ideas! 270  
She nailed tin can lids over all of the open knotholes in the floor to keep 286

the lizards and spiders out. Since we lived in wet, jungle weather, she even 300  
had to keep our food in plastic so that it didn't turn green and fuzzy from 316  
mold! 317

I had my seventh birthday in that funny little house. It was a stormy 331  
night when we sat down to enjoy my birthday dinner. My mother was ready 345  
to light the candles, but . . . plop, plop, plop! It rained on the table! We 359  
moved that tiny table around the house and every time we stopped, the 372  
rain made another plop, plop, plopping sound! We finally found a dry spot 385  
in the bedroom! 388

For years my family laughed about the endless rain on Guam. When 400  
I was a teenager and asked my dad if I could do something, instead of 415  
saying, "Maybe," he always said, "Sure, when it snows on Guam!" 426

Number of words read correctly:

1	2	3	4