

Name _____

It Never Snows on Guam!

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

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

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

The house that we lived in was built high above the ground. It had a tin roof that leaked whenever it rained and a wooden floor with knotholes in it. Since it rained every afternoon, our new home and everything in it was very wet at first. My mother never gave up and she didn't run out of ideas! She nailed tin can lids over all of the open knotholes in the floor to keep the lizards and spiders out. Since we lived in wet, jungle weather, she even had to keep our food in plastic so that it didn't turn green and fuzzy from mold!

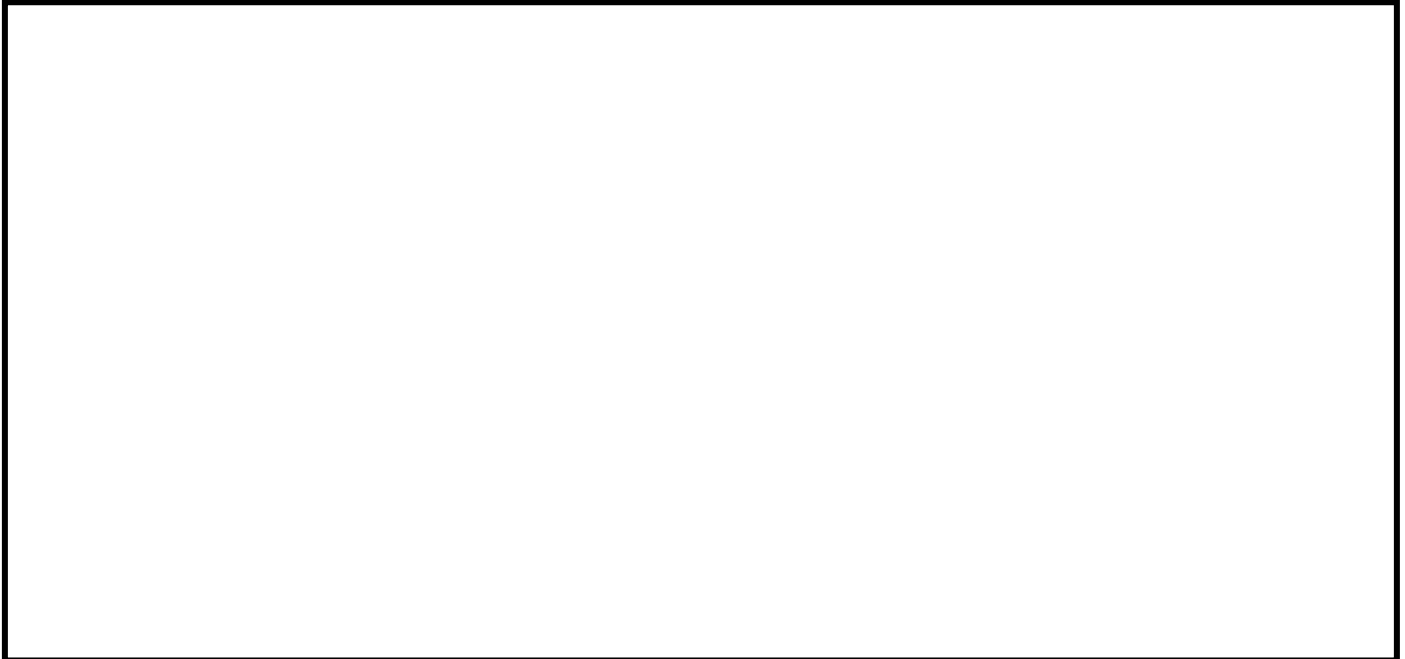
I had my seventh birthday in that funny little house. It was a stormy night when we sat down to enjoy my birthday dinner. My mother was ready to light the candles, but . . . plop, plop, plop! It rained on the table! We moved that tiny table around the house and every time we stopped, the rain made another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

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

Find and circle the special story words. How many did you find?

soon _____ made _____ run _____ gave _____ open _____

Draw a picture of the funny little house in the story.



Fill in the Blanks

Read each sentence below. Circle the missing word and write it in the space.

1. Her mother worked hard and _____ a home out of a hut.
_____ mad made

2. She never _____ up and didn't _____ from trouble.
_____ give gave ran run

3. Spiders _____ came through the _____ knotholes.
_____ soon son apron open

How did the author get to Guam?

What was all over the front yard?

What kind of weather does Guam have?

What came through the knotholes?

How many candles were on the birthday cake?

