

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