



"Please, folks, do what the doctors say," The Muskrat pleaded. "I'm sure it'll just be for a few days." He was quiet for a moment. Then the ranch hands heard the sound of a turntable needle hitting the record, and an old Earl Scruggs song came on.

1. Why didn't Dennis want to drive the smaller country roads?

---

---

2. What did Dennis and Mac have in common?

---

---

3. How did the Geersons find the people they needed to work on their farm in the summer?

---

---

4. When did The Muskrat stop his radio show to tell his audience about the disease?

---

---

5. What were the characteristics of the disease The Muskrat described?

---

---

**2. Go on reading the story and fill in the blanks with the right form of the verbs in brackets.**  
**When you see + use a modal**

That was the beginning of it. For the next few days, the ranch went about its business. The Greersons told the boys (not worry) \_\_\_\_\_, that this would all be over soon. They had enough food on the ranch to last months. In the meantime, they (+keep) \_\_\_\_\_ working on the farm. At night, everyone gathered around the radio and listened to updates. The news seemed only (get) \_\_\_\_\_ worse. More and more people (get) \_\_\_\_\_ sick. The symptoms were strange. People (+become) \_\_\_\_\_ violently ill, then fall into a long, deep sleep. The big cities - New York, Los Angeles, Chicago – (become) \_\_\_\_\_ like ghost towns. No one dared (go) \_\_\_\_\_ out into the street for fear of catching the disease.

The news kept getting worse until, finally, the radio station stopped (transmit) \_\_\_\_\_. The Greersons called a meeting in the dining room of the main house. Everyone (sit) \_\_\_\_\_ around the big dining room table where Ann Greerson served Sunday supper. After everyone (sit) \_\_\_\_\_, Bucky Greerson stood up.

"Now," he said, "I know you're worried, and I (not feel) \_\_\_\_\_ right keeping you here while you don't know what (happen) \_\_\_\_\_ to your family and friends. So, anyone who (want) \_\_\_\_\_ to leave is free to go."

Dennis and Mac looked at each other. They (talk) \_\_\_\_\_ about leaving but had tried to pretend they (+ not need to) \_\_\_\_\_. They had hoped the plague would be over soon, that the world would return to the way it was, that it had all been a strange hallucination. Now that they (have) \_\_\_\_\_ the option to go out into the world and see how bad things really were, they weren't sure they wanted (know) \_\_\_\_\_.

If Bucky Greerson had not given them the option, they (not leave) \_\_\_\_\_, but Mac and Dennis decided they (+not stay) \_\_\_\_\_ there any longer.

The Greersons gave them enough food (last) \_\_\_\_\_ them a couple of weeks and as Mac and Dennis packed up their things and put everything into Mac's truck, the Greersons and the ranch hands gathered around to see them off.

**3. Go on reading and fill in the blanks with a suitable connective**

A week later, Mac and Dennis had zigzagged through dozens of small towns and a few larger cities. \_\_\_\_\_ they found frightened them: every place was empty. \_\_\_\_\_ they looked one way or another, there was not a person out.

Sometimes, they would stop and knock on doors. \_\_\_\_\_ the fact that no one would answer, they sometimes went inside. \_\_\_\_\_ they would sometimes find the dinner table set, they never found a single person home. Every time they entered a new room, they both winced, thinking they'd find a dead body. \_\_\_\_\_ they never did. It was a very strange feeling, \_\_\_\_\_ if the whole world had disappeared around them.

Sometimes, \_\_\_\_\_ the place still got electricity, they'd try to use the phone. Every time, no \_\_\_\_\_ what number they dialed, the same recorded message came on: "The number is not in service. Please check the number and try again."

\_\_\_\_\_, the young men decided to go in the direction of the nearest big city. Even \_\_\_\_\_ it would be a full day of driving, they thought it was their best chance of finding someone. You can't abandon a whole city.

**4. Fill in the blanks with ONE word only.**

Dusk had come, and Mac was at the wheel. Dennis had \_\_\_\_\_ driving for the last eight hours. He was \_\_\_\_\_ tired to go on driving and was taking a nap in the passenger seat. They were passing through a long, flat piece of land \_\_\_\_\_. Mac saw some movement in the distance. He stopped the car, \_\_\_\_\_ off the engine and shook Dennis awake.

"Look," Mac said excitedly. "I think someone's coming."

Dennis squinted his eyes. The movement was becoming larger. \_\_\_\_\_ had been a dot of motion became a long line, stretching across the horizon. Mac and Dennis \_\_\_\_\_ an effort to see what it was. It looked \_\_\_\_\_ people, but they were not sure.

Denis looked for his binoculars, put them to his eyes and looked \_\_\_\_\_ them.

"My gosh," whispered Dennis.

What he saw was people. Thousands of people. Hundreds of thousands, maybe a million. And they were all running. They were running \_\_\_\_\_ fast as they could go, like something was chasing them, or like they were chasing something. As they grew closer, Dennis could just make \_\_\_\_\_ the people's faces. Their eyes were wild.

"Start the car," screamed Dennis.

**5. Dennis and Mac started talking in the car. Complete the dialogue**

**Dennis** Mac, I'm scared! \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_doing?

**Mac** I've no idea. But they were coming our way! Did you get a good look at them? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

**Dennis** Like zombies! And their eyes were wild!

**Mac** Zombies? You can't be serious, Dennis. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

**Dennis** I believe in what I see. And they didn't look like ordinary people!

**Mac** But maybe they need our help. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

**Dennis** Turn back? Help them? \_\_\_\_\_  
serious, Mac. I'm telling you they were dangerous.

**Mac** \_\_\_\_\_ sure?

**Dennis** I saw the look in their eyes. It was really frightening.

**Mac** Ok, Ok. \_\_\_\_\_?

**Dennis** I don't know. Just keep driving as fast as you can.

**Mac** Dennis, you must calm down. It's no good \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. We must think of a plan.

**Dennis** The only plan I can think of is to hide from those horrible people.

**Mac** \_\_\_\_\_?

**Dennis** I think I saw a cave a few kilometres away from here. Maybe we can hide from them in there.

**Mac** That may be a good plan, but unless \_\_\_\_\_  
a gas station we'll soon run out of petrol!

**Dennis** Oh, no!!! I think I saw a gas station somewhere near here. Keep going, Mac! Please!!!

**6. Composition. Write about 200 words on ONE of the following:**

- The End of the Road. Continue the story of Mac and Dennis
- "There is no life after death." Discuss