



☺ Last year, my grandparents took my sister Becky and me on a real-life African **safari** in a country called Tanzania. I knew it was going to be superawesome when I looked out the airplane window and saw Mount Kilimanjaro—the highest mountain in Africa!

☺ “I’m going to do so much stuff on this **safari**,” I told my sister. “Feed a croc, save an elephant, and roar with the lions!”
Becky rolled her eyes. “Sure you are, Ben. In your dreams!”





Our tour guide, **Akida**, was waiting for us at the airport. He was holding a sign with my grandparents' name on it. Next to **Akida** was his son Kami. He was also holding a sign. It made me laugh! Becky just rolled her eyes again.



We all jumped into a jeep and headed for our camp. On the way, we saw a big, green van coming at us fast in the middle of the road. **Akida** had to drive off the road so it wouldn't hit us!



It was getting dark when we arrived at our camp in the Serengeti National Park. The tents were big and looked like fancy hotel rooms inside!

We ate dinner around a campfire and talked about the animals we hoped to see on the safari. Grandma hoped we'd see some big cats, but I was here to see *all* of the "Big Five": Cape buffalo, leopards, lions, rhinos, and elephants.



At last it was time for bed. Becky stayed in one tent with Grandma and Grandpa. I stayed in another tent with Kami. All night I dreamed about the cool animals I was going to see.



In the morning we loaded up the jeep and set out. Grandpa said he was going to shoot every animal he saw. "With my camera, of course," he added with a wink.

As we drove off, Grandma spotted a cheetah in the distance. "Oh, isn't it beautiful?!"

Becky nodded. "They're the fastest land animals in the world, Grandma!"



Grandpa yelled "Woo-hoo!" as he lifted his camera for a picture. Akida asked Grandpa to please not yell. It can scare the animals away.



Down the road we came upon a troop of baboons. Two of them climbed into our jeep to try to steal our lunches. Becky said baboons are “opportunistic eaters.” They will eat anything that is easy to get.

Luckily Akida had packed some extra items. He threw them out the window, and the baboons rushed out to grab them.



Next, we saw some warthogs. Parked behind them was the big green van that had run us off the road the day before. “Maybe the warthogs ran *them* off the road today!” Grandpa joked.

“I wonder what those men are doing out there,” Becky said.

“They seem to be just looking at the animals,” answered Grandpa.