

Camping

INTRODUCE THE STORY

Ask the students to close their eyes and imagine that they are in a tent at night. It is dark and silent. Include many sensory details to help create the scene for them – an owl calling, the fuzzy feeling of their sleeping bag, a gob of toasted marshmallow found stuck to a tooth, the campfire crackling along with the adults' murmuring voices. Ask them to add details of their own – ones they remember from their own camping experiences, or imagined ones. Then read the story (eyes open first!)

EXAMINE THE STORY

1. Match the holiday place on the left to the item you might find there on the right.

Disneyland	Fluffy towels
Arcade	Jackpots
Art gallery	Mouse ears
Fancy hotel	Clothes racks
Mall	Paintings

2. How does the narrator feel about camp food at the beginning? Does she change her mind? Why?

3. When she pokes her head out of the tent at night, what does she see that reminds her of a blanket? How is it like a blanket?

4. When they are “swimming in a raccoon’s kitchen”, where are they swimming, and why is it called a raccoon’s kitchen?

5. Make a chart like this one:

Seeing	Hearing	Smelling	Touching	Tasting
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Now place each of these expressions from the story into the correct category, depending on which sense is used to experience it.

Chipmunk chatter	Fine mud webs our toes
Mmm. Camp food.	Black, so black.
Coffee’s hard, hot taste	The swoosh of cars
The breeze lifts my hair	Watch an eagle sail slowly on currents of air

Which sense has no examples from the story? Make up two of your own (about camping) for this sense.

Camping by Nancy Hundal

6. A metaphor is when one thing is compared to something else by saying it *is* the thing. Listed below are metaphors from the story – your job is to find out what the *real* thing is (see example).

Metaphor	Real Thing
A blanket	<u>The darkness</u>
Street lamps for the earth	_____
Bug guard, chill guard	_____
Green cool, fish school	_____
A deer's living room	_____
A raccoon's kitchen	_____
A flimsy fortress at night	_____

7. What do you think is the idea behind “More time, less o’clock”? What do you think this means?

8. By the end of the story, what has changed about the family? Why did they change in this way?

EXTEND THE STORY

1. If you have been camping, write about an experience you've had while on a camping trip. If you haven't camped, write your own version of one of the ideas from the story, or make up your own.
2. The songs they sing at the campfire are "old songs, new songs, camp songs, Gramp songs". Using songs you know, list two songs for each of these categories.
3. When they swim in the lake, they are "horrified, delighted." Name two other experiences or places where you might feel horrified and delighted at the same time.
4. If you had millions of dollars, where would you go on holiday?
With whom?
What would you do there?
5. If you had very little money for a holiday, where would you go? With whom?
What would you do there?

LINKS TO OTHER SUBJECTS

ART

1. Using a shoebox, make a diorama of a campsite. Show the tent(s), wooden table, campfire, chairs, and anything else you might bring –canoe, dinghy, fishing gear, bicycles, etc. Make trees, bushes, small animals, large animals? (yikes!), and a road. You'll also need people –what else can you add?
2. The woodpile in the story is almost too interesting to work near, as there are so many shapes in the pieces of wood. Draw your own woodpile, hiding as many different objects in the wood as you can. Then show your drawing to a friend, and see how many they can find.

SCIENCE

Research on:

- raccoons
- deer
- chipmunks
- eagles

RELATED BOOKS

About camping:

When We Go Camping by Margriet Ruurs (Tundra, 2001)

About winter camping:

A Winter's Tale by Ian Wallace (Groundwood, 1997)

About fun holidays:

Frog's Holiday by Margaret Gordon (Puffin Books, 1986)

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B M T S E R O F E M S C U R Z
M L O V S A B E C A R Q L H H
A F A S N F I H N R A E E T J
N N W N Q Q C U E S T L E S S
J X L L K U I U L H S I W R E
D O K O G E I K I M C P B E B
J O Y R X B T T S A E D R P N
C H I P M U N K O L R O A M B
S D V T E Q R P M L I O C A V
E Y N A K D U F B O F W C C K
D E G G S M A R F W P T O P V
T L E O P T C C E L M E O R P
E G N X D I X K K L A A N F W
R G R I O L J U K P C U B A N
S U B L L Y Z T K M E W L T W

BLANKET

CHIPMUNK

MARSHMALLOW

RACCOON

STARS

CAMPERS

EAGLE

MOSQUITO

SILENCE

TENT

CAMPFIRE

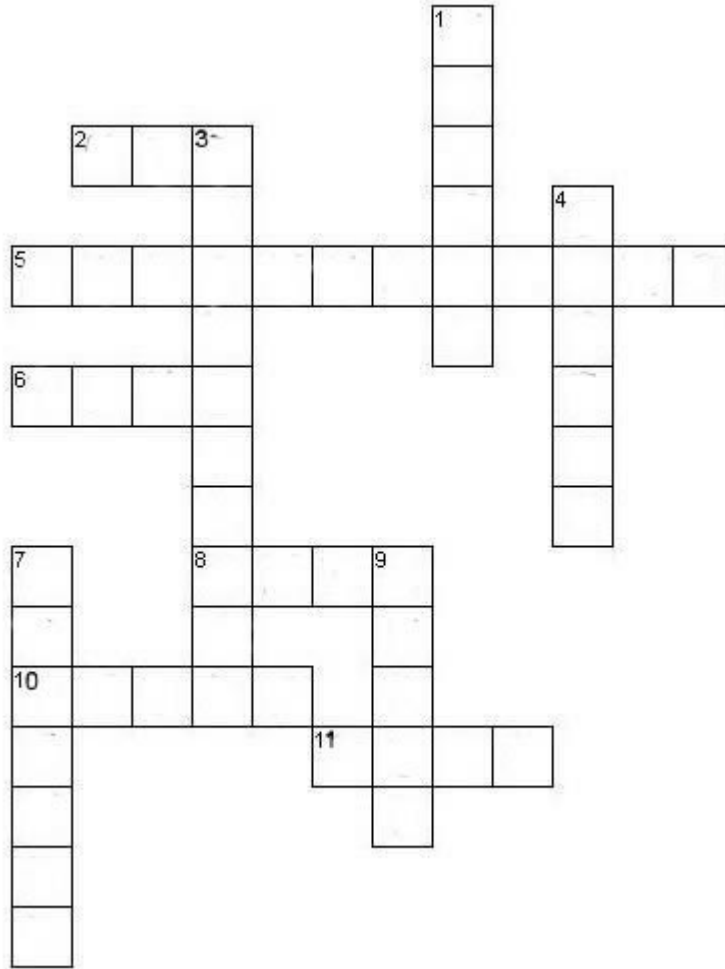
FOREST

PUMP

SONGS

WOODPILE

Camping



ACROSS

- The children aren't used to the _____ on their feet in the lake.
- Camp-fire toasted _____ taste delicious.
- There is more _____, less o'clock.
- Duncan watches _____ on parade.
- The narrator brings a sleeping bag, pillow and _____.
- Getting water from the _____ isn't easy.

DOWN

- Dad wants to go to fancy _____.
- The narrator wants to go here.
- The parents grip their _____ mugs like treasure.
- They are swimming in the raccoon's _____.
- Sunshine is like _____ at noon.

Word Search Solution

Camping

B	M	T	S	E	R	O	F	E	M	S	C	U	R	Z
M	L	O	V	S	A	B	E	C	A	R	Q	L	H	H
A	F	A	S	N	F	I	H	N	R	A	E	E	T	J
N	N	W	N	Q	Q	C	U	E	S	T	L	E	S	S
J	X	L	L	K	U	I	U	L	H	S	I	W	R	E
D	O	K	O	G	E	I	K	I	M	C	P	B	E	B
J	O	Y	R	X	B	T	T	S	A	E	D	R	P	N
C	H	I	P	M	U	N	K	O	L	R	O	A	M	B
S	D	V	T	E	Q	R	P	M	L	I	O	C	A	V
E	Y	N	A	K	D	U	F	B	O	F	W	C	C	K
D	E	G	G	S	M	A	R	F	W	P	T	O	P	V
T	L	E	O	P	T	C	C	E	L	M	E	O	R	P
E	G	N	X	D	I	X	K	K	L	A	A	N	F	W
R	G	R	I	O	L	J	U	K	P	C	U	B	A	N
S	U	B	L	L	Y	Z	T	K	M	E	W	L	T	W

Crossword Puzzle Solution

