

Just Me and My Dad

by Mercer Mayer

Little Critter and his dad take a fun-filled camping expedition in this classic picture book.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What are some things you can do when you go camping?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder what that grasshopper is doing on the fishing pole?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations and ask questions. On every page, ask the children to locate the grasshopper and the spider – they are fun to find! Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day

Rare Words in *Just Me and My Dad*

- **campsite:** an area of land for a camper to pitch a tent
- **pitched:** to set up a camp, tent, or other temporary structure
- **launched:** to put a vessel into the water so that it is ready to sail
- **snapshot:** a photograph

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Have any of you ever been camping before? Where did you go?
- Who knows the name of the animal that scared Little Critter away?
- How do you think Little Critter felt when he launched the canoe too hard? How do you think his dad felt?
- Little Critter cooks the fish over the campfire. What are some other favorites to cook and eat over a campfire?
- How many of you have ever heard a ghost story? How did it make you feel?
- Do any of you have a favorite bedtime story? What is it?

Do

S'Mores

A camping trip just isn't complete without s'mores!

Place a large marshmallow on a square graham cracker. Next place a square of sweet chocolate on top of the marshmallow. After this, place the graham cracker on a baking sheet into a 250-degree oven for about 5 minutes or until the chocolate starts to melt. Remove the s'more and press a second graham cracker on top of the chocolate. Let cool for a few minutes and serve while still slightly warm.

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