

A Camping Spree With Mr. Magee

by Chris Van Dusen

Mr. Magee and his dog, Dee, go camping and have an adventure with a hungry bear.



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, *Has anyone ever gone camping in a camper?* 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 happened to the bear?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *A Camping Spree With Mr. Magee*

- spree: a fun-filled sociable outing
- hitched: join something to something else
- wildlife: wild animals, birds, and other living things
- brook: a small fresh water stream
- pinecones: the seed case of a pine tree, usually woody, oval, and scaly
- knoll: a small rounded hill or mound
- embers: the glowing remains of a dying fire
- bumbling: speaking or behaving in a clumsy or confused way
- snitch: someone who tells on others
- shimmying: a quick movement of the body to the side
- hillside: the side of a hill
- snoozing: a short sleep
- rapids: a part of a riverbed where the water moves very fast, usually over rocks
- quiver: to shake rapidly with small movements
- ledge: a narrow flat rock shelf, on the vertical surface of a cliff
- waterfall: river water falling over a steep place
- capture: to catch and then lock up a person or animal
- bank: the steep side of a river, stream or lake
- dismay: to cause somebody to feel discouraged or disappointed
- jolt: a sudden violent movement or blow

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Who went on the camping trip?
- How did they pull the camper? By Car? Truck?
- What did they camp by in the mountains? Have you ever camped by the water?
- What did they gather to make a campfire?
- What animal came to find a treat after they went to sleep? What was the treat?
- What happened when the bear tried to crawl under the hitch of the camper? Has this happened to you?
- Where did the camper end up when it rolled down the hill? What woke up Mr. Magee and Dee?
- What stopped the camper from going over the waterfall? Would this be scary?
- Why did the bear pull the camper to the bank?
- What happened when the bear realized that the hitch was not a marshmallow? Where were Mr. Magee and Dee? What happened next?
- What stopped the camper when it rolled down the hill?
- Can you tell me where Mr. Magee and Dee went after the camper rolled down the hill? What did they do when they got home?



Do

Camping Scavenger Hunt

Before the children go outdoors, instruct them to find things on the playground that you would see while camping. Sort them and count them when they bring them into the classroom (five twigs, three rocks, etc.).