

Froggy Goes to Camp

by Jonathan London

Trying different things and making new friends can be scary. Froggy's enthusiasm and never-give-up attitude can help children discover that overcoming difficult situations can be very rewarding.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Leaving your parents to go to camp can be tough, but you also get to make a lot of new friends!* 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 if Froggy has a good time at Camp Run-A-Muck.

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Ask the children to try and remember as you read which animal crawled in the mitten first, second, and so on. 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 *Froggy Goes to Camp*:

- ceiling: the overhead surface of a room, or the material used to line this surface
- sleeping bag: a long padded or lined fabric bag, often zippered, for sleeping in, especially when camping
- sunset: the setting of the Sun below the western horizon in the evening
- bunkmate: a friend or person who shares sleeping quarters with another, similar to a roommate
- camp counselor: an assistant at a children's camp, who supervises a group of children or directs a particular activity
- twins: a pair of brothers or sisters that were born at the same time
- bunk: a simple narrow bed built on a shelf or in a recess
- principal: the head administrator of a school, especially a grade school or high school
- director: a manager of an organized group or a program of activity
- sunrise: the rising of the sun above the eastern horizon each morning
- feather duster: a brush for dusting, made of a bundle of large feathers attached to a short handle
- race: a contest to decide who is the fastest
- raft: a flat floating structure made of wooden planks, logs, barrels, or similar materials, used as a boat or anchored in the water as a dock or diving platform
- crack of dawn: the part of morning when light first appears in the sky
- patrol: to guard or protect a place by moving regularly around it and watching it
- archery: the activity of shooting with a bow and arrow
- hike: to go for a long walk in the countryside, usually for pleasure

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Rare Words in *Froggy Goes to Camp* continued:

- jackknife: a dive in which the diver jumps, bends the body at the waist while keeping the legs together and straight, then straightens out to enter the water headfirst
- cannonball: a jump into water with the body tucked into a ball, usually with the head down and the knees drawn up to the chest
- paddle: a short oar with a flat blade at one or both ends used to propel a canoe or small boat
- kayak: a lightweight plastic or fiberglass covered canoe propelled by a double-bladed paddle, used for leisure and in competitive sport
- instructor: somebody who teaches something such as a sport or a practical skill
- canoe: a lightweight boat, pointed at each end, that can be paddled by one or two people and can carry passengers
- squirt guns: a toy gun that shoots a stream of liquid
- stargaze: to observe the stars at night
- bonfire: a large fire built outside for burning garbage, as part of a celebration, or as a signal

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What happened when Froggy jumped on the bed?
- Where did Froggy's dad say that Froggy was going?
- What did Froggy forget to pack? What about the second time?
- When did Froggy and his family finally arrive at the camp?
- What was the name of Froggy's bunkhouse?
- Who were Froggy's bunkmates?
- What happened if you were the last camper up?
- When were the campers going to race to the raft on the lake?
- What duties made up the Kitchen Patrol?
- How did Froggy do on his swim test?
- Who did Froggy accidentally hit when he shot the arrow?
- What did Froggy forget for the race?
- What did Yasha and Froggy do to get Mr. Mugwort all wet?
- Who started the food fight?
- Did Mr. Mugwort get mad when Froggy capsized the boat? What happened next?

Water Color

You will need: water color paints, paint brushes, small cups, paper towels, white paper and black crayons

After reading the story, discuss the illustrations and how they were made by using black crayons and water color paints. Give each child watercolor paints, a paint brush, a small cup of water, a paper towel, a black crayon and a piece of paper. Allow the children enough time to draw a picture with their black crayon. Remember to tell the children that whatever they want painted leave white and whatever they don't want painted, color with the black crayon. Then, allow the children enough time to paint their picture with the water colors. Finally, leave the pictures to dry for several hours.

Additional Activity: if desired, glue the pictures onto colored construction paper and display on a board or hallway wall.



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