

Good Night, Sleep Tight, Don't Let the Bedbugs Bite!

by Diane deGroat

An inaugural day camp overnight experience with Gilbert and his friends at Camp Hi-Dee-Ho and the legendary camp ghost.



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, *Who can tell me if they have ever told ghost stories around a campfire?* 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 Gilbert slept with his flashlight?

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 *Good Night, Sleep Tight, Don't Let the Bedbugs Bite!*

- bedbugs: a small wingless insect found in bedding
- possum: an animal with thin fur, a long nose, and a hairless tail
- ghost: the spirit of somebody who has died
- bunk beds: a pair of single beds fitted one on top of the other
- spooky: frightening and suggesting the presence of ghosts
- canteen: a small container used by campers for carrying liquids, such as water
- counselor: a supervisor of young people at a summer camp
- groped: to search for something blindly or uncertainly by feeling with the hands
- budge: to move something with difficulty or effort
- clutched: to grip something tightly

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What did Gilbert and his mother pack for the camping trip?
- Have you ever slept overnight at a camp? When? Where?
- What day activities did Gilbert enjoy?
- Can you name some fun things you have done at camp? Swimming? Canoeing? Hiking?
- What did they do at night when they sat around the campfire? Roasted marshmallows? Told ghost stories? Have you ever done this?
- Who is Lost Leonard? Is there really such a thing as a ghost?
- What did the counselor say to the children when he turned out the lights? Have you ever heard this before? Who from?
- What did Gilbert do in the middle of the night because he drank so much juice at supper? Was he scared?
- What happened when Gilbert dropped his flashlight?
- Who was hiding under the bathroom sink? Clutching what? Do you have something you sleep with that makes you feel safe? What?
- Did Gilbert show Lewis his stuffed possum that he brought to the sleepover?

Do

Camping Collage

Collect leaves, pebbles, twigs, pine cones, etc. Provide glue and sturdy tag board. Encourage the children to create a collage on the tag board using the materials found while camping.