

Where The River Begins

by Thomas Locker

A Parent's Choice Award winning author brings us this heartwarming story about nature and two young boys and their grandfather who journey to a waterway's source.



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 followed a river?* 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 how a small pond becomes a river?

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 *Where The River Begins*

- camping: living outdoors in a tent
- river: a natural stream of water that flows through land and empties into a body of water such as an ocean or lake
- foothills: a hill at the bottom of a higher mountain
- guide: something that assists others in a place or toward a destination
- boulder: a large round rock
- narrow: having a small width
- forest: a large area of land covered in trees and other plants growing close together
- wading: walk in water
- flickering: to burn or shine not steady
- path: a track that has been worn by the continual passage of feet
- knoll: a small rounded hill or mound
- gaze: to look for a long time
- meandered: a route with a series of twists and turns
- trickled: to flow slowly in a thin stream or in drops
- upland: land that has a high elevation
- peaceful: quiet and calm
- cliffs: a high steep rock
- weariness: tired, running out of strength

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Where did the river begin? Where did it end?
- Who took the boys on the camping trip? Have you ever gone camping with your Grandfather? Where?
- What did they use for a guide when the road ended?
- How did they cross the river?
- What did the boys enjoy doing when they went through the forest and set up their campsite?
- How did the boys know their search was finally over?
- What happened when they started home? What did they do? Have you ever been in a storm when camping? Where did you go?
- What happened after the storm?
- What happened when they tried to take a shortcut?
- When did the boys realize they were close to home?



Do

A Field Trip To The River

Pack a picnic lunch and take a field trip to the river. Teach the children safety tips and explain the dangers of the river.