

Tacky Goes to Camp

by Helen Lester

Tacky, the penguin, and his friends go to Camp Whoopihaha where they scare each other by telling ghost stories around the campfire, never expecting that one of the frightening stories will come true.



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 gone to camp?* 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 why Tacky is taking a TV to camp?

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 *Tacky Goes to Camp*

- carefully: watchful and protective about something
- nifty: fashionable and good-looking
- uniform: a single outfit of clothes
- tent: a movable shelter of tough fabric or plastic cover held up by poles and kept in place by ropes and pegs
- synchronized: to go or work together
- archery: shooting with a bow and arrow
- crafts: the skillful making of a decorative object by hand
- s'mores: toasted marshmallows and chocolate between graham crackers
- swordfish: a large ocean fish with an upper jaw that extends into a long point
- crawling: to move slowly along on hands and knees
- flippers: a broad flat limb that an animal such as a penguin or seal uses for swimming
- growly: to make a low sound in the throat
- companion: somebody who shares time with another person
- squeeze: to press something hard in the hand or between two other objects
- thudded: a loud dull sound made by a heavy object
- leftovers: remaining after the rest of something has been used or eaten
- slumbered: sleeping
- gobbled: to eat something quickly
- frantically: impossible to keep feelings or behavior under control
- waddling: to walk with short steps from one side to the other
- yelping: bark or cry sharply

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Can you name Tacky's friends? Why do you think he was called Tacky?
- Can you tell me where Camp Whoopihaha is? Have you ever camped in the Winter? Where?
- What things should you pack for cold weather camping? What did Tacky pack?
- What did the penguins wear at Camp Whoopihaha? Have you ever worn a uniform?
- What did they sleep in? What kind of tent did Tacky sleep in?
- Can you name some fun things they did at camp?
- What game did Tacky invent? What games have you played while camping?
- What was the best activity? Why? Have you ever told scary stories?
- What story did Tacky tell?
- What animal came into their camp site at night time? Has this ever happened to you while camping? What did you do?
- Why did the bear come into their camp? What food was he after?
- Why didn't the penguins run from the bear? How did they try to wake up Tacky?
- Who finally scared off the bear?



Do

Story Time about Camping Experiences

At group time ask if any of the children have been camping. Let them tell the rest of the children what they did while they were camping. Ask where they slept, what they ate, where the bathroom was, etc.