



Toasting Marshmallows

by Kristine O'Connell George

A captivating and memorable picture book of poems that will leave readers with wonderful memories of a camping trip—even if they've never been on one!

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, what do you think this story is about? 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 the boy had three marshmallows and the girl had one?*

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

- camping-living outdoors in a tent
- tent-a movable shelter of tough fabric or plastic cover held up by poles, ropes and pegs
- stakes-wood or metal posts driven in the ground to mark or support something
- billow-to fill with air
- taut-stretched tightly
- thicket-a dense growth of small trees or bushes
- trembles-slight shaking
- poised-motionless often just before or in the midst of an action
- spindled-long and thin object shaped like a table leg
- snarling-growling like a dog
- scrunch-to crumple, crush, or squeeze something together tightly
- cocoon-a silky covering which a caterpillar or other insect encloses itself until it turns into an adult
- nibbling-taking small quick bites of something
- hasty-done in a hurry
- whitecaps-the white crest of a breaking wave
- confetti- small pieces of colored paper or dried flowers – similar to confetti in shape or color
- confection-the process of combining things



- eavesdropping-listening to a conversation without the speakers being aware of it
- lure-a device attached to a fishing line to catch fish
- cattails-tall, slender, brown, tube-shaped plants found in a marsh
- hillside-the side of a hill
- ancient-very old
- passages-paths enclosed on both sides
- cinderblocks-light, hollow blocks made from coal ashes mixed with cement used in building and construction work
- gawk-to stare rudely
- scaffold-a supporting framework
- scallops-fan-shaped edge

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What color was the family's tent? What color is your tent?
- What is a doe and a buck?
- What is the dog's name? Have you ever taken your dog camping?
- What did the girl sleep in when camping? What do you sleep in?
- Can you tell me what a chipmunk looks like? What do they eat? Have you seen one?
- What did the children follow on their camping trip? Have you followed a path? Where did it take you?
- What are some things the children found on the path?
- When the wind begins to blow and black clouds start to rumble, what is happening? Where should you go?
- What is it called when you dance for rain? Have you done one?
- What did they roast over the campfire? Have you ever roasted marshmallows? Do you like yours cooked?
- What did the children think the moon was doing on them in the tent? Have you ever done this?
- What is a bait shop? What can you buy?
- Where did the girl and her mother row? Have you ever been to an island? Where?
- What did the children find in the cave? Have you ever been in a cave?
- What does a moose look like? Have you seen one?
- Can you name some noises you may hear at night?
- What kind of insect did the children see spinning her web? Have you seen one?
- What did the little girl hide in hopes of finding it next year on the camping trip? Have you done this?
- What did the girl do with her favorite camping shirt? Do you have a favorite piece of clothing for your camping trips?

DO

Plan a Fishing Trip

Set up a rocking boat or a large box in the classroom or outdoors. Prepare paper fish with paper clips attached to them. Include a fishing pole made from a wooden dowel and a long string with a magnet attached to the end.

