

# The Surprise Visitor

Story By: Judie Eberhardt

It was early spring and Toby and his little sister Kate were excitedly looking forward to their vacation break from school. Only two more days, thought Toby, and I will be able to have some fun in the sunny warm weather. It had been a long, cold winter and Toby wanted to be outside.



Toby suddenly had an idea that he wanted to go camping over the weekend to celebrate the start of spring break. What better way to enjoy the outdoors than to go camping? Toby ran into the house to find his Dad and tell him his idea. Dad thought it was a great idea too. “If you kids want, we can go to Quiet Lake.” Kate started jumping up and down with excitement because the last time she went to Quiet Lake she caught her first fish. “Maybe I’ll catch another fish!” Kate said hopefully. “Well, you two better go out to the shed and start finding our supplies and don’t forget the tent,” said Dad. Kate and Toby went to the dusty shed out back and found the fishing poles, the tent, and the cooking supplies they would need. Now all they needed was for the next two days of school to pass by quickly.

It was finally Friday and that night at dinner Dad said, “You kids need to get to bed early.” Dad wanted to start for the lake around seven o’clock. Toby and Kate were so excited they could hardly sleep. Finally, the loud beeping sound of the alarm clock woke Toby. He rushed to get dressed, brushed his teeth, combed

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his curly blond hair, and flew down the stairs two at a time. He yelled to Kate as he passed her bedroom, “Kate, time to get up!” Mom was in the kitchen making yummy pancakes with maple syrup and bacon. “This should hold you campers until lunch time.” Mom was not going to Quiet Lake this time. It was her weekend to help out at the local hospital. After breakfast Dad checked to make sure they had everything they needed and left for Quiet Lake.

They finally arrived at Quiet Lake. Dad set up the tent. Kate and Toby were so hungry. “Those pancakes didn’t last too long,” said Kate. “OK,” said Dad, I’ll start the fire and you both get the hot dogs and marshmallows Mom packed for us.” While Dad was working on the fire Toby thought he heard a noise coming from the tent. “What’s that noise?” Toby asked.” “I didn’t hear anything,” said Kate. “There it goes again,” said Toby. “Maybe it’s your tummy because you’re hungry,” laughed Kate. “No, it sounds like it’s coming from the tent,” said Toby. Just then Dad yelled, “How about those hot dogs and marshmallows?” Toby ran to the tent and yelled, “OH NO!” “What’s wrong?” shouted Kate. As Kate ran into the tent she saw Toby holding an empty torn bag of marshmallows and one hot dog. “It looks like a raccoon ate our lunch,” said Toby. Dad spotted the raccoon sitting on a log behind the tent eating their food. “It looks like we had a surprise visitor for lunch today.” “Now what are we going to eat?” asked Kate. “I guess I’ll go down to the Welcome Center and get us some more hot dogs and marshmallows,” laughed Dad. “I guess Quiet Lake was not so quiet this time!”

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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What vacation were Toby and Kate excited about?
  - A. Christmas Vacation
  - B. Summer Vacation
  - C. Spring Break
  - D. A long weekend
  
2. Why was Toby and Kate's mother staying home?
  - A. She didn't feel well.
  - B. She was babysitting for a friend.
  - C. She didn't like camping.
  - D. She had to work at the hospital.
  
3. What items did Dad tell the children to get from the shed?
  - A. Bicycles and helmets
  - B. Tent, fishing poles, and cooking supplies
  - C. Bug spray and blankets
  - D. Compass, map, and sunscreen
  
4. What time did Toby, Kate, and Dad leave for the lake?
  - A. Five o'clock in the morning
  - B. Six o'clock in the morning
  - C. Seven o'clock in the morning
  - D. Seven o'clock in the evening
  
5. What animal ate the hotdogs and marshmallows?
  - A. A raccoon
  - B. A deer
  - C. A squirrel
  - D. A bear

# The Surprise Visitor- Answer Key

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