

Name: _____

The Perfect Camping Trip

By Anita N. Amin

One Saturday evening, Bella and her friend Mia went camping. Mosquitoes snapped at them in the dewy air. Tall pine trees rustled in the soft wind and sprinkled down pine needles.

"It's like camping in the woods," Mia said. They were in Bella's back yard.

"Let's pitch our tent." Bella flung a sheet over two drooping branches on side-by-side trees. It was perfect! They laughed and crawled under the sheet.

But the wind grew stronger. The sheet flapped over and off the tree. They tried again, but the sheet wouldn't stay.

"Hmm," Mia said. "Let's roast marshmallows instead."

They hunted for sticks and broken pieces of bark. They made a pile on the ground, poking long sticks through their marshmallows. It was perfect!

Bella ran inside to ask Mom to start the campfire. But Mom said, "No, we can't start a campfire in our back yard. You or someone else could get hurt. Just pretend. Or you can use the microwave."

They pretended but it wasn't the same. And their marshmallows got dirt all over them.

"Hmm," Bella said. "Let's sit and look at the stars instead."

But when they looked up, Bella saw a black sky without any glowing stars. The moon was hazy and striped with tentacle-like clouds.

"The sky looks spooky," Mia said.

"It does look spooky," Bella smiled.

They told each other spooky ghost stories. It was perfect!



Then, Bella felt a drop. And another. And another.

Bella and Mia raced inside out of the rain.

Their camping trip was ruined! Bella frowned. Or was it? She remembered they could make s'mores in the microwave!

Bella and Mia devoured their graham cracker, chocolate, and marshmallow s'more sandwiches. Who knew s'mores could be so good without ashes and smoke?

Mom pulled two sleeping bags into Bella's bedroom. Bella and Mia snuggled deep down in them, staring up at the glowing sticker stars on Bella's bedroom ceiling.

"This is the best camping trip ever," Mia said.

"Let's do it again next weekend!" Bella smiled. "It was perfect!"

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1. In the story, where do Bella and Mia go camping?
 - a. on Bella's grandparents' farm
 - b. in Mia's bedroom
 - c. in Bella's backyard
 - d. in the woods

2. Describe three things that go wrong during Bella and Mia's camping adventure.

3. What reason does Mom give for not starting the campfire?
 - a. It's too windy.
 - b. It's going to start raining.
 - c. There is no firewood.
 - d. Someone could get hurt.
4. In the story, how do the girls make their s'mores?
 - a. over a campfire
 - b. in the microwave
 - c. using marshmallow spread
 - d. they don't make s'mores

5. Read this sentence from the story:

"The moon was hazy and striped with tentacle-like clouds."

Which of the following words best describes the tone, or mood, of this sentence?

- a. mysterious
- b. confusing
- c. playful
- d. ordinary

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Unscramble the letters in the boxes in order to form vocabulary words from the story. Write the complete word on the line.

1. **n o d i o g r p**

hint: falling forward; hanging down limply

2. **h i p c t**

hint: set up; put in position

3. **s i m o q
t o e u s**

hint: tiny insects that leave behind itchy bumps on the skin when they bite

4. **d e n e l e s**

hint: slender, pointed leaves of a pine tree

5. **r t l u s d e**

hint: crackled like leaves on a tree

6. **s a e h s**

hint: powdery dust left behind from a fire

7. **o e d r e v u d**

hint: ate very quickly because of hunger

8. **o s y o k p**

hint: scary; ghostly
