

# Good Night, Sleep Tight, Don't Let the Bedbugs Bite!

by Diane deGroat

An inaugural day camp overnight experience with Gilbert and his friends at Camp Hi-Dee-Ho and the legendary camp ghost.



## 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 told ghost stories around a campfire?* 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 if Gilbert slept with his flashlight?

### 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 *Good Night, Sleep Tight, Don't Let the Bedbugs Bite!*

- bedbugs: a small wingless insect found in bedding
- possum: an animal with thin fur, a long nose, and a hairless tail
- ghost: the spirit of somebody who has died
- bunk beds: a pair of single beds fitted one on top of the other
- spooky: frightening and suggesting the presence of ghosts
- canteen: a small container used by campers for carrying liquids, such as water
- counselor: a supervisor of young people at a summer camp
- groped: to search for something blindly or uncertainly by feeling with the hands
- budge: to move something with difficulty or effort
- clutched: to grip something tightly

### After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What did Gilbert and his mother pack for the camping trip?
- Have you ever slept overnight at a camp? When? Where?
- What day activities did Gilbert enjoy?
- Can you name some fun things you have done at camp? Swimming? Canoeing? Hiking?
- What did they do at night when they sat around the campfire? Roasted marshmallows? Told ghost stories? Have you ever done this?
- Who is Lost Leonard? Is there really such a thing as a ghost?
- What did the counselor say to the children when he turned out the lights? Have you ever heard this before? Who from?
- What did Gilbert do in the middle of the night because he drank so much juice at supper? Was he scared?
- What happened when Gilbert dropped his flashlight?
- Who was hiding under the bathroom sink? Clutching what? Do you have something you sleep with that makes you feel safe? What?
- Did Gilbert show Lewis his stuffed possum that he brought to the sleepover?

**Do**

## Camping Collage

Collect leaves, pebbles, twigs, pine cones, etc. Provide glue and sturdy tag board. Encourage the children to create a collage on the tag board using the materials found while camping.