

# When We Go Camping

by Margriet Ruurs

A beautifully illustrated picture book about a family's camping experience. Each page depicts a woodland animal along with a legend of each.



## 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 what things you have done while camping?* 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 the Moose really came that close to their 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 *When We Go Camping*

- camping: living outdoors in a tent
- snuggle: to get into a comfortable, cozy position, especially close to another person
- peek: to take a quick look at something, especially secretly
- slip: to move smoothly with a sliding motion
- explore: to travel to a place to discover what it is like or what is there
- shore: the land that runs along the edge of the ocean or lake
- loons: a black-and-white fish eating bird with a short tail, webbed feet and a laughing call
- paddles: a short oar with a flat blade at one or both ends used to guide a canoe or small boat
- trout: a freshwater fish that has a speckled body, small scales, and soft fins
- hoist: to raise or lift somebody or something up with a mechanical device
- lodge: a cabin or temporary home
- hike: a long walk in the countryside, usually for fun
- grazing: grass and green plants for animals
- disturb: to spoil the quietness
- surface: outer part
- croaking: a rough, low-pitched sound, the cry of a frog
- squish: to squeeze or crush something soft
- saskatoons: a sweet purplish black fruit
- blackberries: a small sweet cluster of round dark purple fruit
- musky: an odd odor
- shadow: dark shape of something in light
- glides: to move in a smooth way
- sparks: a small piece of a burning substance
- chorus: a large group of singers

## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- When you go camping, do you wake up early or late?
- What type of bedding can you use on a camping trip?
- How many of you have gone canoeing or boating? How do you steer the boat?
- What things do you do when you arrive at your campsite? Set up the tent? Gather firewood?
- What did the children see while exploring and hiking?
- What did the children pick on their camping trip? Have you picked berries? Can you name them?
- What kinds of fish have you caught while camping?
- What are some things you can do around the campfire at night? Tell stories? Sing? Roast Marshmallows?
- Can you name the different sounds you may hear after dark?



**Do**

## Find the Woodland Animals

Have the children find the woodland animals on each page of this book. Then have them draw a picture of their very own campsite including different animals they have seen while on their camping adventure.