

Three Days on a River in a Red Canoe

by Vera B. Williams

An imaginative journey down river on a camping tour with the family. It's the next best thing to paddling it yourself.



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, *Has anyone ever ridden in a canoe?* 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 they had good or bad weather?

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 *Three Days on a River in a Red Canoe*

- canoe: a lightweight boat, pointed at each end
- paddle: a short oar with a flat blade used to steer a canoe or small boat
- life jacket: a sleeveless jacket made of light material filled with air, used to keep somebody afloat in water
- freeze-dried: to preserve something, especially food, by freezing it and removing the moisture
- waterproof: treated material that penetrates water
- pocketknife: a small knife with one or more blades that folds away into the handle
- camp: a place to set-up tents or camper vehicles
- mosquito: a small fly that feeds on the blood of humans and animals
- edge: the area where land suddenly falls away steeply
- waterfall: river water that falls over a high place
- gear: clothes and accessories
- drain board: a sloping surface with shallow grooves that allows water to drain off wet dishes
- meadow: a grassy field for grazing cows, etc.
- island: piece of land surrounded by water
- current: a steady flow of water or air in one direction

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Where did they buy the red canoe? Who paid for it?
- Who decided where they would go on their camping trip?
- What things do you need to do before you go camping? Shopping?
- What supplies did they buy for their trip? Food?
- How long did they drive before they were able to set up camp and put their canoe in the water?
- What type of weather did they encounter on their trip?
- Can you tell me what they saw after the rain? What are some colors in a rainbow?
- What was jumping out of the water after the rainbow faded away? What kinds of fish?
- What did they do when they came to the waterfall? Have you ever experienced this type of situation?
- Where did they take a shower? Have you ever showered in a waterfall?
- Can you name some of the animals they saw in the meadow? Name some you have seen when camping?
- What different kinds of food did they fix? Name some you have fixed?
- Can you tell me what they saw when they looked up at the stars?
- Can you name the different type of birds they saw?
- What happened when Sam got excited and stood up in the canoe? How did he get back in?
- What happens when the river comes to the end?



Do

Campers Shopping List / Field Trip

Have the children make a list of all supplies you need on a camping trip. Plan a field trip to a department store or a sporting goods store.