Story: Into the Woods

Axel heard a rustling sound coming from the woods.

Was it a bear? Or a mountain lion?

“Just a raccoon or maybe a skunk,” his grandfather said, poking the campfire with a stick.

The fire sizzled and bright orange sparks shot up like tiny fireworks.

The wind whistled through the trees, and the night was pitch black.

Axel sat on a big log. His grandfather sat on a tree stump.

This was Axel’s very first camping trip, and his very first campfire.

He felt scared about being in the woods at night.

Maybe if he played a game on his tablet he’d feel less scared, he thought.

“Where do I plug in my tablet?” Axel asked his grandfather.

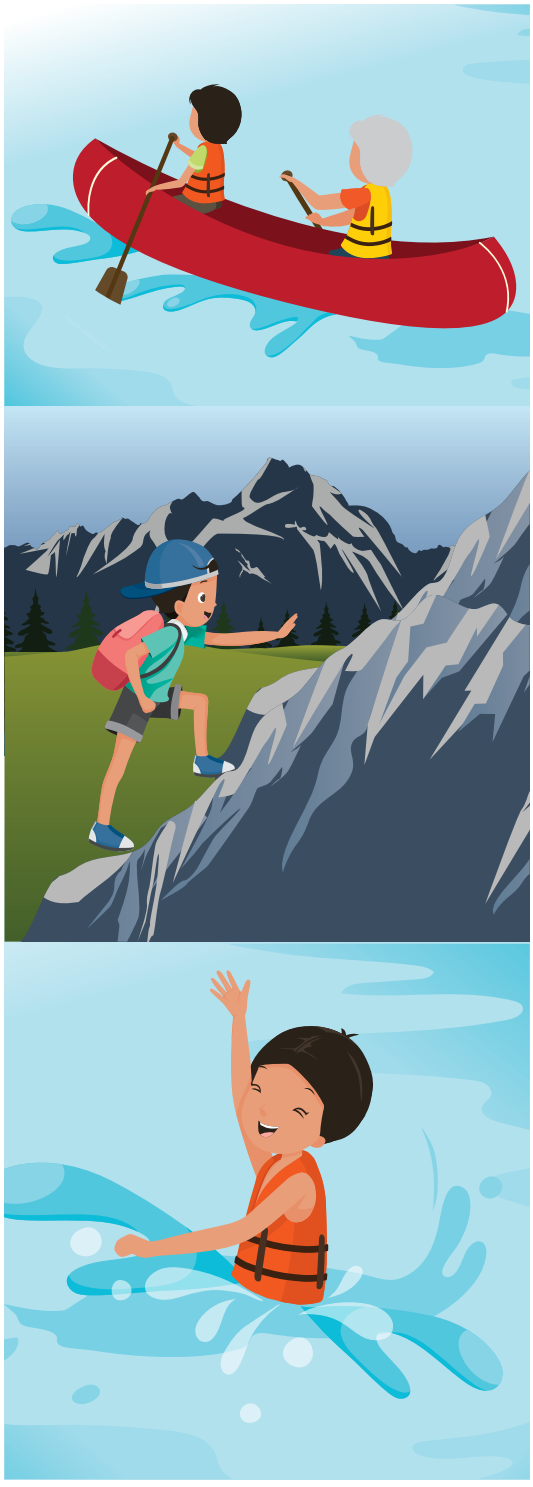
“There are no places to plug in tablets here,” his grandfather said.

“What?” Axel wailed. “What will I do without my video games?”

His grandmother handed Axel a long branch with a marshmallow at the end.

“Roast marshmallows,” she said.

Axel had never roasted marshmallows before.



The roasted marshmallows were gooey. Mmmmm. They tasted good.

Axel licked his fingers clean.

“You can go canoeing again,” his grandfather said.

“And fishing,” his grandmother added.

“And hiking,” his grandfather said.

“And swimming,” his grandmother added.

Axel had done all those things for the very first time that day.

At first, he felt scared and then it was fun.

“Tomorrow we’ll climb a mountain,” his grandfather said.

Axel had never climbed a mountain before.

Would he be scared?

Maybe at first, he thought. But then it would be fun.

Axel heard another rustling sound in the woods.

Just a raccoon, he smiled. Or maybe a skunk.

“You can sing campfire songs and tell stories in the dark,” his grandmother said.

And that is what they did.

The rest of Axel’s family were joining them in a few days.

At first they would feel scared camping, Axel thought, but then they’d have fun.

Just like him.

Glossary *(Definitions of Story Words)*

Campfire: An outdoor fire you gather around to keep warm, cook food and spend time together when camping.

Camping: A vacation where you sleep in a tent, cabin or trailer in the outdoors, usually near the woods and a lake, river or ocean.

Canoeing: A narrow boat that a person paddles. Always wear a lifejacket in a boat.

Hiking: To go for a walk in the woods or another nature setting.

Elements of a Story

Elements of a Story: The pieces of a story that come together to make it complete. Story elements include character, setting and plot.

Character: The people or animals in the story.

Conflict: The problem in the story that needs to be addressed or fixed.

Plot: What happens in the story.

Setting: Where and when the story takes place.

Theme: A story's main idea.