

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Character Response

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Read the short story and answer each question.



## The Campfire Plan

Zara loved everything about camping—except the dark. During the day, she helped pitch the tent, find sticks for the fire, and even roasted a marshmallow or two. But when the sun started to set, she stayed close to her dad and didn't wander far.

On the second night, their group hiked to a special campfire circle in the woods. "We'll tell stories and look at stars," her cousin Jay said. Zara gulped. The trail looked darker than before, and the trees seemed to whisper.

"I don't want to go," she whispered to her dad.

"You'll be with people you trust," he said kindly. "And if you're brave, you might see something beautiful."

Zara took a flashlight and walked beside Jay. Every rustle made her heart race, but she kept going. At the campfire, someone told a silly story about a singing bear, and everyone laughed.

Later, when they turned off the flashlights, the sky lit up with stars. "I didn't know the sky could sparkle," Zara whispered.

She still didn't love the dark, but she loved what she found by facing it.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Campfire Plan

1. What challenge does Zara face in the story?

- A. She doesn't like camping food.
- B. She is scared of the dark.
- C. She forgets her flashlight.
- D. She doesn't want to hike.

2. What does Zara discover after facing her fear?

- A. She wants to go home.
- B. She likes scary stories.
- C. The stars are beautiful.
- D. She wants to sleep outside alone.

3. Fill in the blank:

Zara felt \_\_\_\_\_ when the group walked into the dark woods.

4. How does Zara change from the beginning to the end of the story? What helped her change?

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5. Can you think of a time you were nervous or scared but still tried something new? What happened?

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** L

**Lexile Level:** 355L-505L

**Grade Level:** 2nd Grade, Middle of the Year

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## Introducing the Text

*"Today's story is about a girl named Zara who loves camping—except for one part. As you read, think about how she responds to the challenges she faces and what helps her keep going. We'll look closely at how she changes from the beginning to the end."*

**Vocabulary:** pitch (a tent), marshmallow, sparkle, flashlight, whisper

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you like or dislike about being outside at night?
  2. How do you act when something makes you nervous?
  3. What helps you feel safe in new situations?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is Zara's mood when they plan to walk to the campfire?
  2. What does her dad say to her before the hike?
  3. How does Zara act once they arrive at the campfire?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What does Zara learn by the end of the story?
  2. How do the events of the hike help her grow?
  3. Why is it sometimes good to do something even if you're scared?
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## Activity Idea

Create a "Night Sky Jar"! Students can decorate a clear jar with glow-in-the-dark stars, sequins, and paper shapes. Then, write a sentence on a tag that says, "When I feel scared, I remember \_\_\_\_." This helps connect the theme of courage to personal experience in a tangible, visual way.

