

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Word Choice & Meaning

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Campfire Circle

Jasper had never been camping before. His idea of a perfect night involved video games, warm snacks, and no bugs.

So when his class trip took them to **Timber Falls Campground**, he was less than thrilled.

"Don't worry," his teacher said. "You might surprise yourself."

That first night, Jasper sat stiffly on a log by the fire. Everyone was laughing and toasting marshmallows, but all he could think about was the cold wind and the itchy mosquito bites on his arm.

"This is so not for me," he muttered.

Then Nora, the quietest girl in class, pulled out a worn guitar. She strummed a soft tune, and soon the group quieted. One by one, students began to share short stories—some funny, some scary, and some sweet.

Jasper found himself leaning forward. He had a funny story too. When it was his turn, he told it. Everyone laughed—including Nora.

The next night, he didn't sit stiffly. He brought extra marshmallows and asked Nora to teach him a song.

Later, when they packed to go home, Jasper sighed. "I'll miss this part."



Name: _____

The Campfire Circle

1. How does Jasper feel about camping at the beginning of the story?

- A. Excited to be in nature
- B. Nervous but curious
- C. Uninterested and uncomfortable
- D. Already experienced at camping

2. What causes Jasper's point of view to change?

- A. The food tastes better than expected
- B. He finds a quiet spot to be alone
- C. He connects with classmates during the campfire stories
- D. The teacher makes him give a speech

3. Fill in the blank:

At first, Jasper thinks the best night involves video games and no _____.

4. How is Jasper's point of view different from yours? Would you have felt the same way about camping? Why or why not?

5. How does the author show that Jasper's point of view has changed by the end of the story?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: O

Lexile Level: 590L-740L

Grade Level: 3rd Grade, Middle of the Year

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Introducing the Text

"In this story, Jasper begins with one opinion about camping—but it shifts as he experiences something unexpected. As we read, we'll think about how his point of view changes and how our own thoughts might compare to his."

Vocabulary: campground, marshmallow, stiffly, strummed, opinion

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What's your opinion about camping?
 2. Have you ever judged something before trying it?
 3. Why might a character's point of view change in a story?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What clues tell us that Jasper is uncomfortable at first?
 2. What part of the story starts to change his feelings?
 3. How do his actions reflect this change?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does Jasper's experience help him grow or connect with others?
 2. What is your own point of view on camping—how does it compare to Jasper's?
 3. Why is it helpful to notice a character's perspective in a story?
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Activity Idea

Have students complete a **"Point of View Reflection Card."** One side says *Jasper's Point of View* and includes a sentence for the beginning and end of the story. The other side says *My Point of View* and includes a sentence about how the student feels about camping (or another shared experience). Students then compare how and why their perspective is similar or different.

