

LEVELED Book • M

Snow Camping



Written by Alyse Sweeney
Illustrated by John Kastner

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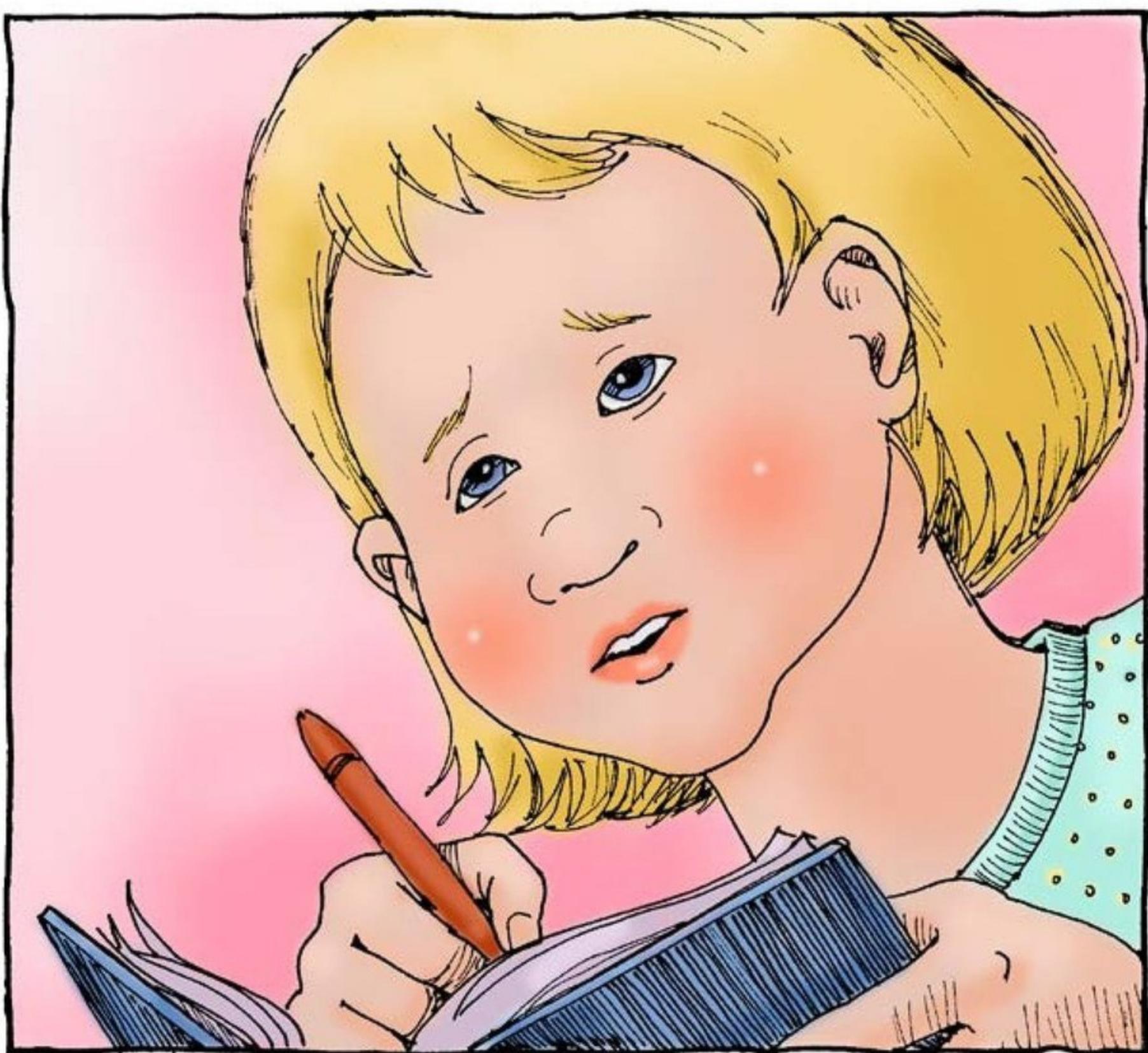


January 8, 4:00 PM

I cannot believe I am going snow camping in two days! Dad promised I could go when I turned eight. That is when Kate first went with Dad. She is twelve now. So this year will be her fifth snow camping trip.

Kate says snow camping is fun.
I should not be scared. But I AM
scared. How will I stay warm? What
is it like to sleep in a **snow dome**?
Is it like sleeping in a freezer?

Kate will roll her eyes if I **whine**.
She will say, “Stop being a baby,
Maddie!” I want to be brave, like
Kate.



January 9, 7:30 PM

Dad and I just packed my backpack. He says the trick to staying warm is to wear several loose layers of fast-drying clothes. He also said that wearing wet clothes in the frigid cold causes **hypothermia**. I did not know until tonight that hypothermia is when your body cannot make enough heat to stay warm. People can DIE from hypothermia!!!!





January 10, 11:30 AM

Dad was right! I AM warm!!!
We hiked for two hours to our
campsite—in **snowshoes!** I was
so hot. I even took off my coat!

It is SO quiet here, except for the
sound of our snowshoes moving
across the snow. It sounds like this:
WHUMF WHUMF.

I have to go. We are going to build
a snow dome now!!!!



January 10, 5:00 PM

Wow! Making a **quinzhee** is tiring—but fun. First we made a massive pile of snow with our shovels. Then we ate lunch. The snow hardened. Then we carved out the dome.

Our quinzhee looked like a snow cave. We even added a kitchen!

I am still scared to sleep in there. Will we freeze while sleeping in snow? Will the quinzhee fall in on top of us?

January 10, 6:30 PM

Kate keeps telling me to stop being a scaredy-cat about sleeping in the quinzhee. She was scared when she slept in snow for the first time, right? I am so mad at her. I ignored her all through dinner.





January 10, 8:00 PM

Dad told us cool camping stories after dinner. He has been snow camping since he was a little boy. I asked him what he likes about snow camping. “No bugs and no crowds,” he said.

January 10, 9:30 PM

I am lying in the quinzhee. It is 23 degrees outside and 33 degrees in here. It is not as cold as I thought—thanks to Dad's snow camping tips.

Tip 1: Eat trail mix before you sleep because **digesting** food warms up your body.

Tip 2: Keep a hot water bottle in your sleeping bag. It warms your feet.



Tip 3: Keep your mouth and nose out of your sleeping bag. That way, wetness from your breath will not get into your sleeping bag and make you cold.

I told Kate that I am NOT a wimpy baby. And I told her that I'm NOT scared to sleep in the quinzhee anymore. She was already asleep.





January 11, 10:30 AM

After breakfast, Kate and I had snowshoe races. She kept tripping. So I kept winning! She gets so grumpy when she loses.

Oh my gosh! We just saw a **snowshoe hare**! It was white with super-huge feet! I whispered to Kate that the hare was using **camouflage** to hide in the snow. I love that word.



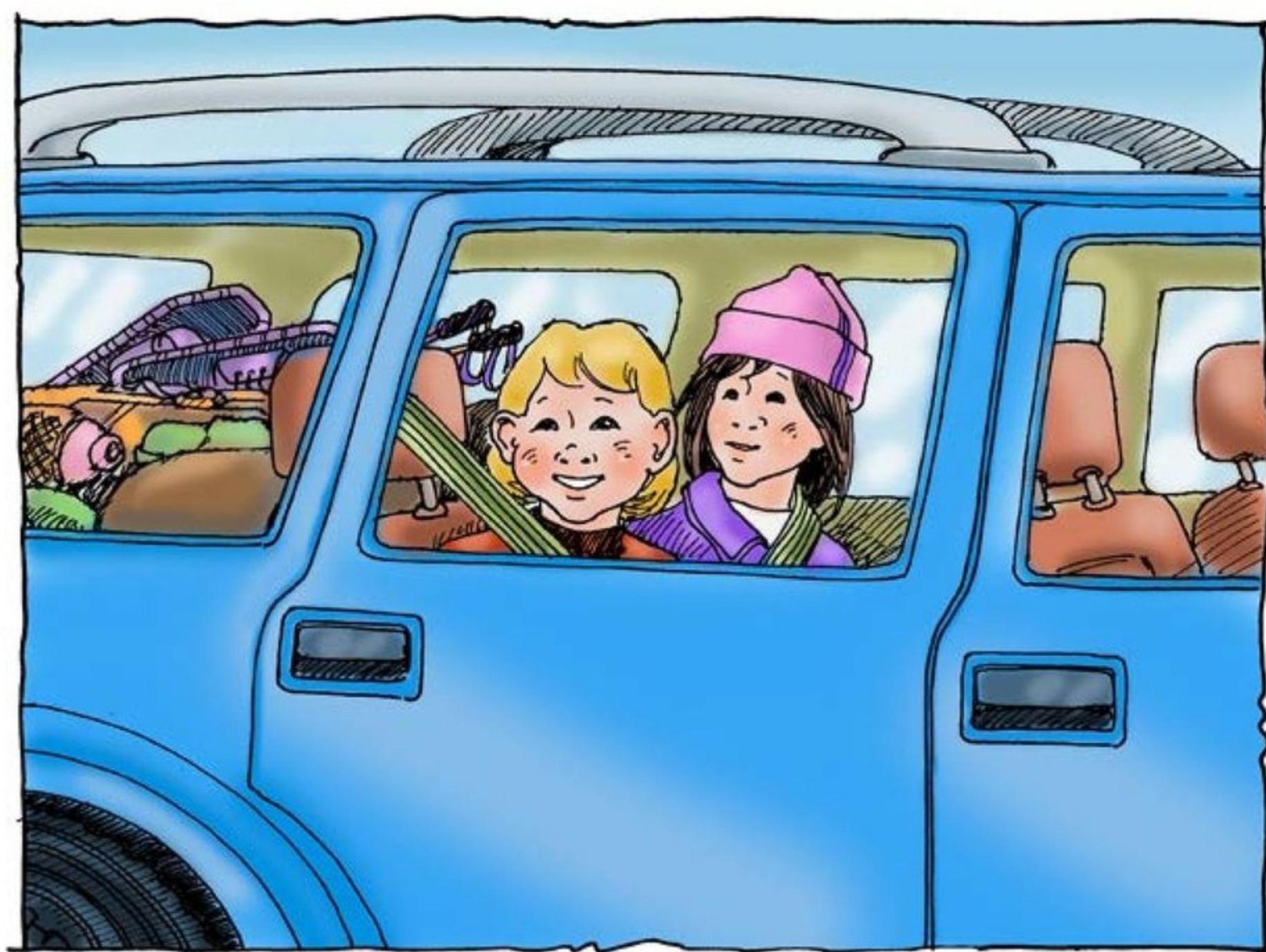
January 11, 1:00 PM

It is already time to go home. We just finished a yummy lunch of peanut butter sandwiches, cheese crackers, and candy bars. In a few minutes, we will hike back to the car. Goodbye, snowy trees. Goodbye, snowy mountains. Goodbye, snow dome.

January 11, 4:00 PM

We are driving home now. And Kate just told me a **HUGE** secret. She said that on her first snow camping trip, she cried most of the time! I cannot believe Kate cried! Then she told me that I did a great job.

Now I believe that after sleeping in the snow, I AM brave enough to do almost **ANYTHING!**



Glossary

camouflage	to blend into the background; to hide (p. 13)
digesting	turning food into energy (p. 11)
hypothermia	a very low body temperature (p. 6)
quinzhee	a snow shelter made by digging out a space in a pile of snow (p. 8)
snow dome	a quinzhee (p. 5)
snowshoe hare	a type of rabbit that has large furry feet and that turns white in the winter and brown in the summer (p. 13)
snowshoes	shoes that look like tennis rackets and let people walk on deep snow without sinking in (p. 7)
whine	to complain (p. 5)

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