

LEVELED BOOK • M

Snow Camping



Written by Alyse Sweeney
Illustrated by John Kastner

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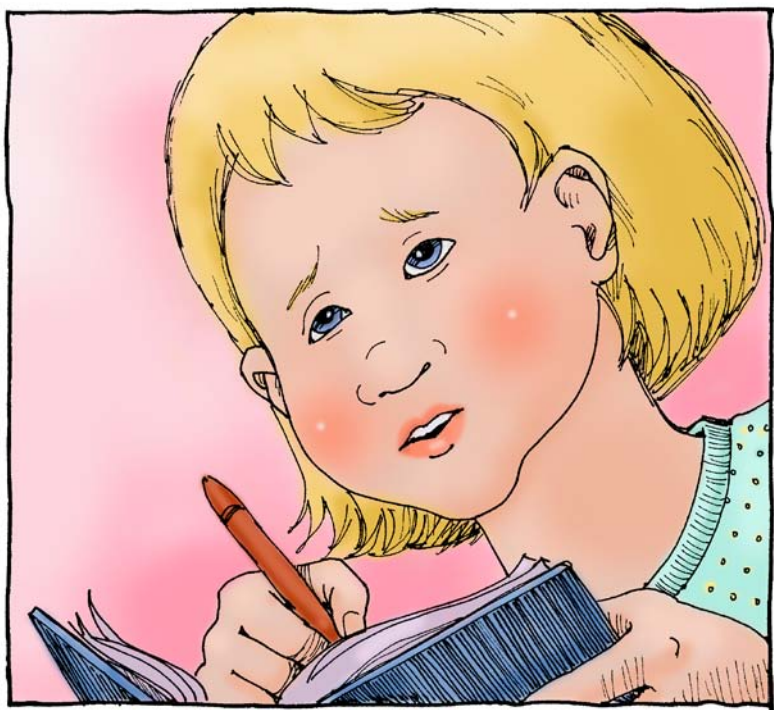


January 8, 4:00 PM

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.



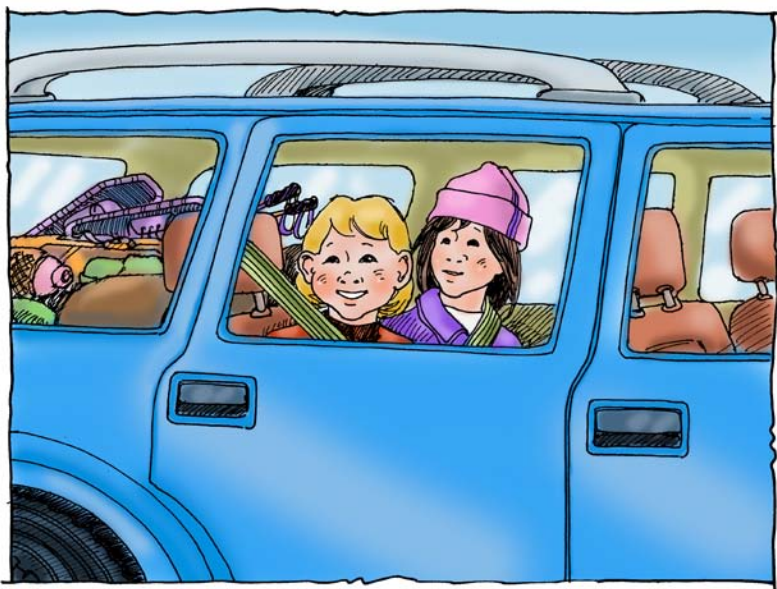
January 11, 1:00 PM

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)
snowshoes	shoes that look like tennis rackets and let people walk on deep snow without sinking in (p. 7)
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)
whine	to complain (p. 5)

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