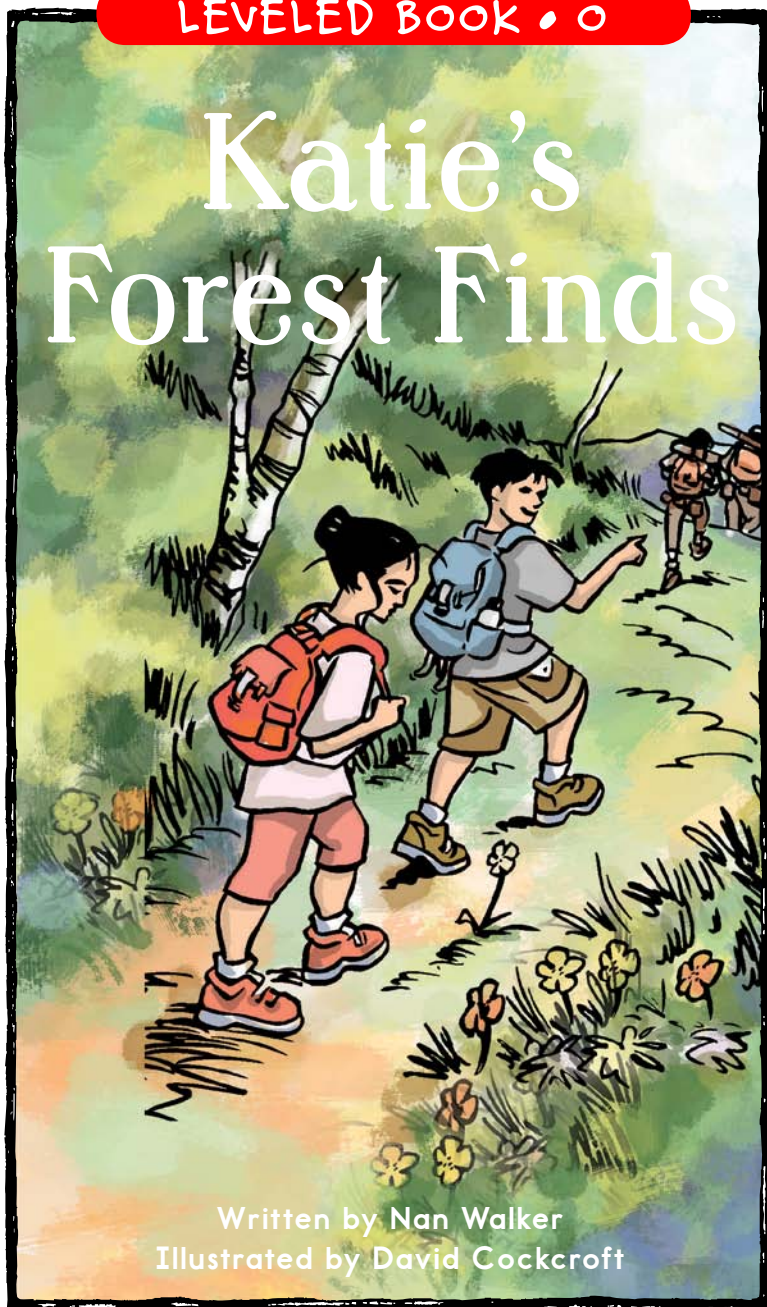


LEVELED BOOK • 0

Katie's Forest Finds



Written by Nan Walker
Illustrated by David Cockcroft

www.readinga-z.com

Katie's Forest Finds



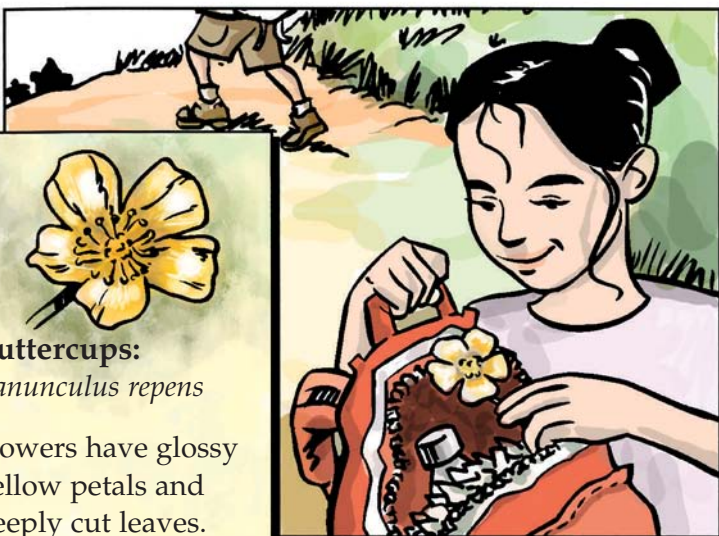
Written by Nan Walker
Illustrated by David Cockcroft

www.readinga-z.com



Table of Contents

What Katie Found	4
New Territory	7
Leave It Here?	10
Katie's Collection	13
Glossary	16



Buttercups:

Ranunculus repens

Flowers have glossy yellow petals and deeply cut leaves. They grow in colder, mountainous areas.

What Katie Found



“Last one to the top gets gobbled by a grizzly!” Ben yelled as he pushed past Katie and scrambled up the trail after their parents.

Katie was examining a grand butter-yellow flower growing in the middle of the trail. As she plucked the blossom and dropped it into her open backpack, she imagined how terrific it would look in her nature collection.

She'd just begun collecting a few hours ago, but Katie had already discovered all kinds of interesting objects: a mammoth pinecone, brown acorns topped with miniature, fuzzy hats, and now this flower.



Sugar pine:

Pinus lambertiana

Sugar pine trees have pinecones 15 inches (38.1 cm) tall.



Tanoak:

Lithocarpus densiflorus

The fruit of tanoak trees looks like an acorn with a hairy green hat.

A sudden rustling and crackling in the woods made Katie spin around, recalling Ben's **taunt**. Her brother was only teasing about grizzly bears, wasn't he?

Glimpsing a tiny creature behind her, Katie laughed. Luckily, Ben wasn't nearby to see her struck with terror by a chipmunk!

Nevertheless, she knew she shouldn't let the others get too far ahead. She zipped her backpack shut and slung it over her shoulder, then sprinted to catch up with the rest of her family.



Least chipmunk:

Eutamias minimus

These are the smallest of all chipmunks. They have black and white stripes down their backs.



New Territory

“We have arrived!” Katie’s father announced. “Now, what is our first order of business?”

“Flop down and rest,” said Katie’s mother, as she eased her heavy backpack off her shoulders.

“Take off our shoes and jump in the stream!” suggested Ben.

Excellent ideas, Katie thought, but her father shook his head, saying, “The first thing we should do is set up camp while it’s still light.”



They located a level spot, and soon she and Ben found themselves hard at work clearing away loose rocks and other **debris** while their parents unpacked the tent and set it up. Once the setup was completed, Katie and Ben's father told them they could explore until dinner. "Watch out for the grizzlies!" Ben warned his sister before he charged off.

"Are there really grizzly bears around?" Katie asked her father.

"No," he said, "but there are other varieties of wildlife you might see if you keep your eyes open."

"I saw a chipmunk," she said, "but it ran away."

"Typically, wild animals will hide or run away when they see humans," her father said. "Remember, this is their **territory**, and we're strangers here."

Katie said, “Maybe if I gave the chipmunk food, it wouldn’t be afraid of me.”

“Feeding wild animals is bad for everyone,” her father said. “It’s bad for the animals, because they can become **dependent** on our handouts and forget how to get their own food. And it’s bad for humans, too, because even a cute little chipmunk is still wild and could bite.”

“Then how can I show that I just want to be friends?”

“Just remember you’re a visitor here, and treat the woods with the same respect you’d expect from a guest in our home. That’s the best way to be a friend to wildlife.”





🍃 Leave it Here? 🍃

Katie's parents prepared a delicious dinner over the camp fire. Was it the long hike that made the food taste so good, Katie wondered, or the fresh **aroma** of the mountain air?

After dinner, the whole family told stories and jokes until the stars started to appear.

The following morning, Katie awoke first. As she unzipped the tent flap and stepped out, she saw a deer drinking from the nearby stream. Although she wished she could run over and pet the deer, instead she simply **observed** it quietly until it left.

When the deer had **departed**, Katie took her own turn at the stream. As she bent to wash her face, she spotted a stone with a glittery white streak across the center—another item she could add to her collection!



Quartz:

Silicon dioxide

Quartz is one of the most plentiful minerals on Earth. The most common colors are clear or white.



Soon, the others woke up and they all ate breakfast; then it was time to pack up and leave. Together, Katie and her father gathered all their trash into a plastic bag.

“Where is the garbage can?” she asked.

Smiling, her father said, “There is no garbage can up here—we need to pack out everything we carried in.”

“But I don’t have any room left in my backpack!” she said, showing him.



Her father frowned and said, “Katie, you need to take all that out and leave it here.”

Katie stared at him in horror. Leave it here? But it was her collection!

Katie's Collection

Katie's father sat down on a rock, patting the space beside him, and **reluctantly**, Katie sat. Displaying the pinecone and the acorns, he explained, "These are food for birds and small animals like the chipmunk you saw. How would you feel if someone snatched your lunch for a **souvenir**?" Picturing the chipmunk dashing away with her school lunchbox, Katie admitted, laughing, "I guess I wouldn't like that very much."





When her father pulled the next **article** out of her backpack, Katie **grimaced**.

“That flower was so pretty when I picked it!” she said.

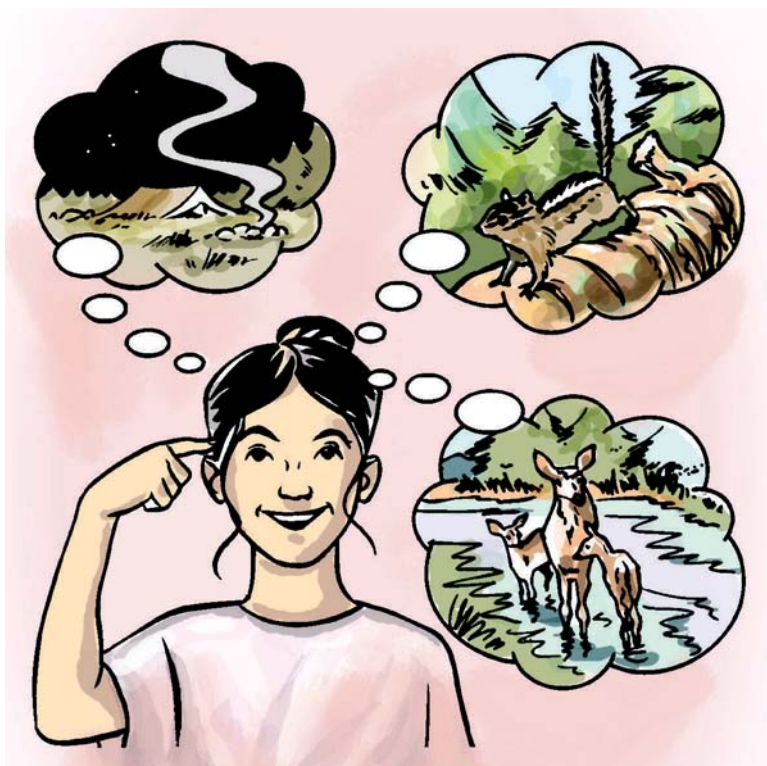
“If you leave it where it’s growing, it will look just as pretty on the way back down,” her father said. “Not only that, but as it grows and dies, it will spread its seeds. The seeds will make more flowers next year.”

Only one item remained—the smooth round stone with the white streak, which Katie’s father said was quartz.

"I'll put that stone back into the stream," she said. "Anyway, I still have the rest of my collection!"

Peering into the empty pack, her father said, "You mean there's more?"

"Oh, yes," Katie said, "but it's too big to bring home in my backpack. So I'll keep it all right here."



Glossary

aroma	a pleasant smell that is very noticeable (p. 10)
article	one of a certain kind of thing (p. 14)
debris	pieces that are left behind when something is broken, for example, tree branches (p. 8)
departed	to have left or gone away from (p. 11)
dependent	relying on something or someone (p. 9)
grimaced	made a face showing displeasure (p. 14)
observed	watched (p. 11)
reluctantly	showing hesitation (p. 13)
souvenir	a thing that serves as a reminder of something, such as a trip or place (p. 13)
taunt	a mean remark (p. 6)
territory	a geographic area (p. 8)

Katie's Forest Finds
Level O Leveled Book
© Learning A-Z
Written by Nan Walker
Illustrated by David Cockcroft

All rights reserved.

www.readinga-z.com

Correlation

LEVEL O	
Fountas & Pinnell	M
Reading Recovery	20
DRA	28

Katie's Forest Finds

A Reading A-Z Level O Leveled Book

Word Count: 947



**Reading a-z**

Visit www.readinga-z.com

for thousands of books and materials.