

Camp Whatchamacallit



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TCM

Teacher
Created
Materials

Table of Contents

Chapter One:	
Welcome to Camp!	4
Chapter Two:	
Team Blue	10
Chapter Three:	
Shapes in Nature	16
Chapter Four:	
Natural Wonders	22
Chapter Five:	
The Best Prize	26
About Us	32

Chapter One



WELCOME TO CAMP!

Sam jolted awake to the sound of the camp bell ringing. *Ding! Ding! Ding!* He pulled his blanket over his head. A musty odor rose into his nose. It was only his second day at Camp Whatchamacallit, and he already wanted to go home.

“Better get up, sleepyhead! Or our camp counselor will come in clanging pots and pans. It’s so annoying,” said his cabinmate Jay from the bunk below. He was already putting his shoes on.

“It’s so early,” Sam grumbled, opening one eye.





A sliver of sun pushed its way through the curtain, shining a triangle of light on the hardwood floor. Blackbirds chattered just outside the cabin.

Sam yawned. All his other cabinmates were still sleeping. Sam reached for his camp T-shirt.

“We’d better move if we want to beat the morning rush at the bathrooms. Trust me,” said Jay. He stretched his arms in the air and did a couple of jumping jacks. His reddish hair spiked in all directions. A prism of sunlight lit up the cinnamon-colored freckles on his cheeks.

“Are you always this energetic in the morning?” Sam asked. He was so tired he could barely tie his shoes!

“I’ve been coming here for the past three summers,” said Jay. “It’s a blast.”

“This is *not* my idea of fun,” mumbled Sam. It was his first time at camp.

The thought of the outdoors made Sam cringe. He was allergic to everything! Dust, grass, pollen—nearly everything outdoors made him sneeze and wheeze. Sometimes, he had a hard time breathing. For some reason, his mom and dad thought camp would be a great experience for him.

“It will give you a chance to make new friends,” his mom had said.

She had packed all the essentials for surviving the outdoors: a sun hat, bug spray, sunscreen, an inhaler, and allergy medicine. He knew his eyes would get red and itchy. They often did when he went outside. What were they thinking sending him to camp?

Sam’s chest tightened. He took a puff from his inhaler. Then, he headed out the door with Jay.

As he walked to the bathroom, Sam slapped a mosquito off his arm. He scratched the itchy spot, and a round, red welt appeared. It was a good thing his mom packed a special ointment for insect bites.

It was going to be a long week.



Camp Whatchamacallit

It's Sam's first time at camp, and there is a nature scavenger hunt competition. But Sam is allergic to everything outdoors, and he just wants to go home. Can Sam survive the outdoors long enough to win?

Reading Levels

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