

## Stormy Round Lake

Excitement filled the Peterson house. It was June fifteenth and school was over until next fall! Kevin Peterson was no longer a third grader. As of noon, when his mom picked him up after the last minimum day of the year, Kevin had become an "almost" fourth grader. His older brother John had graduated from elementary school the day before. John would start middle school in a few months, but that seemed a long way off to the boys. For now, the brothers were thrilled to be on summer vacation.

When their dad got home from the hospital, where he worked as a nurse, the family was going to leave on their annual summer camping adventure. This was the day the Peterson boys had been looking forward to for an entire year. Last summer, and all the summers they could remember before that, they had loved spending a week camping at Round Lake. It was their favorite place to swim, fish, hike, and play as a family. They predicted this trip would be even better than last year's!

As soon as Mr. Peterson arrived home, Mrs. Peterson told her husband and sons, "Gather your stuff and load it into the back of the station wagon!" The Peterson family had packed their clothes the night before so they could leave quickly. They hated to get stuck in a bunch of traffic on their way to the lake. Kevin and John thought they should put everything in the car the night before, but their parents had reminded them that Mr. Peterson needed to take the car to work. Remembering that their dad had to park the car in a spot where he could not keep his eye on it during the day, the boys had agreed that they should wait to load it until they were ready to go.

The boys had medium-sized duffle bags full of summer clothes, books, card games, disposable cameras, and flashlights they'd gotten for Christmas. They stumbled to the car, loaded down with their bags, plus fishing poles and hiking boots. Then they ran to the garage and grabbed the four sleeping bags their mom had requested they be responsible for bringing. It was hard to believe they needed so much for one week!

Kevin and John's parents were also struggling to get their items to the car in one trip. Mrs. Peterson had her clothes and a camping lantern, plus camping cookware and packaged food for meals. Mr. Peterson carried the tent and four collapsible chairs in addition to his personal items. He looked tired from a long day of work, but his mood was enthusiastic and cheerful. "Off we go!" he called out as he pulled the family car, stuffed with the family and supplies, out of the driveway. The whole family had great memories of previous summers at Round Lake.

The Peterson family roared down the highway, glad to be in front of all the rush-

hour traffic. They reached Round Lake by dinnertime. The lake looked peaceful and inviting. The air was still warm, and the sunset was visible in the horizon. No other campers were around, but the Petersons preferred it that way. The sky was clear, and they worked together quickly to set up camp near the lake before dark. Knowing they would need some way to cook their supper, John helped his dad collect wood for a fire. The temperature outside had dropped significantly in the few hours they'd been there, so they hurried to gather the wood.

When everyone was perched in their chairs around the fire, they started to prepare dinner. Kevin and Mr. Peterson found four sticks, and John and their mother dug into the food bags to find the hotdogs, buns, and catsup they would need. Before long, they were huddled near the fire, trying to avoid burning their hands as they each prepared their own meal.

Before they were even ready to put the hotdogs on the buns, a loud roar filled the sky above them! They were shocked and could hardly believe that a storm could have arrived without them knowing it. Somehow, they hadn't noticed the dark sky fill with threatening rain clouds. They heard thunder a second time and saw lightening flash just above the lake. Clearly, the weather had made a drastic change!

Rain began to pound on their bodies and quickly changed to hail the size of nickels that hurt when it hit their skin, and they lost all interest in finishing their dinner preparation. They dropped their still-cold hot dogs and looked at each other in despair. The fire began to fade, and Mr. Peterson ordered everyone into the tent. By the time they slithered into their sleeping bags, they were already wet, cold, and very disappointed. The family had hoped to stay up late and enjoy the fresh outside air, but now there was nothing to do but go to sleep, stomachs growling in protest.

For a long time, they huddled, shivering, in their sleeping bags. Kevin tried hard not to cry. He didn't want his brother to tease him about being afraid of the lightning and thunder, but he wished they were safely tucked into their house in the city. Finally, even with all the noise, exhaustion took over and Kevin and John drifted off to sleep.

"OH NO! Get up! Get up!" Mr. Peterson yelled as the boys awoke and tried to make out their dad's figure in the darkness. It was obviously still night. Barely awake, John and Kevin wondered why he was yelling--and then they felt the water surrounding them! Their mom was kneeling in a puddle in the tent, still too shocked to speak. The tent was about to cave in, and water filled the bottom of it. The boys had gone to bed damp, but they were waking up drenched!

Mr. Peterson led them out of the tent into the stormy night. A combination of cold rain and hail hit their already wet clothes and skin. The wind was picking up, and thunder

boomed frequently. They knew they had to get to safety before they washed away--or worse, were hit by lightening! The panicked Peterson family rushed to their station wagon. Once they got there, though, they ran into yet another problem. Mr. Peterson could not find the keys!

"Where did you leave them?" Mrs. Peterson asked. The boys could hear the frustration in their mom's voice. Their dad was famous in their family for his forgetfulness. He lost his car keys all the time, only this time it wasn't so funny. The boys huddled together, frightened, as the storm raged around them and their parents looked like they were about to start arguing.

Just then, a huge flash of lightning lit up the sky, and Kevin saw something shiny on the ground near his dad's foot. "Dad!" he yelled, pointing towards the ground. "Right there!"

Of course, by then it was dark again, and they had to wait for the next flash of lightning. This time, Kevin was ready. As soon as the sky lit up, he rushed towards the car and grabbed the keys. He handed them to his mom and then stood out of her way. Moving quickly, Mrs. Peterson unlocked the door, and the drenched family scurried to safety. Luckily, they had left the windows up, and no water had leaked in. Mrs. Peterson was relieved that they had fixed the sunroof just the week before.

Once Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Peterson, John, and Kevin were safe inside the station wagon, they wondered what to do next. "Do we have to leave?" asked John. Despite the horrible storm, he couldn't imagine not being at Round Lake when the sun rose in a couple of hours. Kevin was more concerned about his stuff. "What about my new flashlight and the disposable camera? Do you think the rain ruined them?" Mrs. Peterson assured him that even if they were destroyed, they were easy enough to replace. Like John, she was more worried about the fate of their camping trip.

Mr. Peterson sat quietly, trying not to draw his wife's attention. Kevin thought this was a wise choice as he thought about what might have happened if he hadn't seen the keys on the ground outside. The boys and their father all breathed a little easier when Mrs. Peterson turned to her husband and smiled. "Well," she said, "this is definitely turning into a vacation to remember, isn't it?"

- 1. At the beginning of the story, what were Kevin and John thrilled about?**
  - A. They were ready to graduate.
  - B. Summer vacation had started.
  - C. They passed the grades they were in.
  
- 2. Where was the family planning to go?**
  - A. To a new and exciting summer vacation place.
  - B. To the vacation place they visited each summer.
  - C. On a camping trip to several places around the state.
  
- 3. What was the first thing John and his dad did after the camp was set up?**
  - A. They collected wood for a fire.
  - B. They sat in chairs around the fire.
  - C. They helped the mother with the food bags.
  
- 4. Why weren't Kevin and John allowed to pack the car the night before they left?**
  - A. It got to be late, and Kevin and John had to go to bed.
  - B. Their father didn't have a safe place at work to park the car.
  - C. They hadn't finished packing their clothes in their duffle bags.
  
- 5. What important camping supplies were Kevin and John responsible for packing?**
  - A. Their games and flashlights.
  - B. The books and games.
  - C. All four sleeping bags.
  
- 6. What result that they wanted did the family get from packing so quickly?**
  - A. They could take their time getting to the lake.
  - B. They got to be ahead of the rush-hour traffic.
  - C. They got to eat in the car on the way to the lake.
  
- 7. What was Kevin like when he got into his sleeping bag?**
  - A. He was afraid but wanted to stay in the campground.
  - B. He was disappointed and wanted to go home right away.
  - C. He was afraid, wanted to cry, and wished he were home.

- 8. What was Mr. Peterson like when the family was packing the car?**
- A. He was tired, but he was in a good mood.
  - B. He was tired and more than a little grumpy.
  - C. He felt that the packing was taking too long.
- 9. What was the main problem in this story?**
- A. A major storm developed unexpectedly.
  - B. The family didn't get to eat before going to bed.
  - C. The temperature dropped significantly in a few hours.
- 10. How was the family probably feeling after the camp was all set up and they were sitting around the campfire?**
- A. It was going to be cold and rainy and not much fun.
  - B. They should have brought more warm clothes.
  - C. This was going to be another great vacation.
- 11. How was the family feeling by the time they got into their sleeping bags?**
- A. Wet, cold, hungry, and disappointed.
  - B. Wet but hopeful about the next day being dry.
  - C. Disappointed but dry and warm in their sleeping bags.
- 12. What happened right after Mr. Peterson got the boys out of the tent?**
- A. The tent caved in and started to float away.
  - B. They found out the door to the car was locked.
  - C. The wind got stronger, and the thunder got worse.
- 13. What was this story mainly about?**
- A. What can happen when vacation plans aren't planned out carefully.
  - B. How important it is to take enough supplies on a camping trip.
  - C. How the first day of a family vacation was ruined.



- 14. How was Kevin able to find the keys to the car?**
- A. Lightening flashes lit up the ground and the keys.
  - B. He felt around in the mud next to his dad's foot.
  - C. He saw when his dad was dropping the keys.
- 15. What were the parents mostly worried about during the storm?**
- A. Their vacation would be completely ruined.
  - B. Everything would be soaking wet and not usable.
  - C. Getting washed away or hit by lightening.
- 16. What evidence makes it seem wrong to think that Mr. Peterson couldn't find the car keys because he was so forgetful?**
- A. He was already standing by the door of the car.
  - B. The keys were lying on the ground next to his feet.
  - C. A car key is too important to forget when it is raining.
- 17. Why did Mr. Peterson wake the boys during the night?**
- A. The tent floor was flooded, and the tent was about to cave in.
  - B. He wanted to make sure the boys were safe and doing okay.
  - C. He decided that it was time to pack up and go back home.
- 18. Why did the parents look like they were about to argue during the storm?**
- A. Mrs. Peterson was upset that Mr. Peterson wasn't more concerned about the family.
  - B. Mrs. Peterson was upset because Mr. Peterson wasn't helping the boys enough.
  - C. Mrs. Peterson was upset because Mr. Peterson couldn't find the keys to the car.

- 19. What were Kevin and John most concerned about after they were safe in the car?**
- A. Kevin was concerned about his things being ruined, and John was concerned about having to leave the campground.
  - B. John was concerned that his camera was ruined, and Kevin didn't care what was ruined as long as he was safe.
  - C. Kevin worried about the rain getting worse, but John thought more rain might be fun.
- 20. At the end of the story, why did Mr. Peterson not want to draw his wife's attention?**
- A. He didn't want to bring up how forgetful he usually was.
  - B. She might be upset that he wasn't able to find the car keys.
  - C. He wanted her to forget about the storm and wait for the sunrise.