

A Michigan Summer: Danny's Camp Adventure

You'll want to be there when Danny, from Clarkston, Michigan, makes his first trip to summer camp. How will Danny cope when his parents force him to leave his friends behind and go out into the wilderness of Camp Wanehgo? To him, it seems like a nightmare. Worried about being put in a situation where he could embarrass himself, Danny is afraid to push out of his comfort zone and see what the outdoors has to offer. To make matters worse, everyone is talking about Piney, the oldest and fiercest bear in Petoskey, while Danny's never seen anything more fierce than a squirrel. With some help from his new camp friends, though, Danny finds fun in discovering the local plant and wildlife. In this module, students will discuss why it might be important to be open-minded about new experiences and to observe the natural world. They will learn about real plants and wildlife, as well the important power of determination. Join Danny on his first summer adventure as he pushes through his fears to explore the forest on the big camp hike!

Characters:

Protagonist-----

Danny: He doesn't want to go to camp, but his parents have sent him and now he must make the best of it.

Family-----

Danny's Mom: She helps Danny get ready to go to camp and sides with his dad about sending him away for the summer.

Danny's Dad: He wants Danny to go to camp, just like he did, and won't hear anything otherwise.

Danny's friend-----

Stephen : He is a friend from school, who also lives nearby. Danny comes to him for advice about what to say to his parents.

Campers-----

Carlito: He is an older and wiser camper who takes Danny under his wing and helps him to feel more comfortable and learn about nature.

Aiden: Friendly and sometimes a bit mixed up, Aiden mostly spends time with Sharv and Carlito as part of the group of kids Danny spends time with at Camp.

Sharv: He is closest friends with Aiden, but is perhaps a bit more responsible and clued-in to instructions. The differences between Sharv and Aiden don't hinder their friendship.

Karuna: She is a smart, science aficionado at camp, but is also popular because she is incredibly friendly and kind.

Wynter: She's a camper who, like Danny, is less than thrilled about having to attend camp. Despite their similarities, she and Danny do not necessarily get along well, at first.

Camp Staff-----

Counselor Chris: He is the happy-go-lucky counselor assigned to Danny's cabin.

Counselor Angie: Slightly more strict, and in charge of the girls, Angie teams up with Counselor Chris to lead the big hike.

Camp Director Nathan: The man in charge of all of Camp Wanehgo, he is hardly seen but seems to be encouraging to everyone at the camp.

Themes:

- Nature as an enjoyable or pleasurable thing to explore
- Determination as an important personal trait involved in overcoming fears and achieving new things.
- Acknowledgement of one's own shortcomings and a desire to better oneself.
- Science as an accessible subject that has the capacity to enrich everyday life.
- Cultivation of open-mindedness and a capacity for self-discovery.
- Being able to both accept help from others and act independently when the time is right.

Relevant Content Standards:

Science and Biology

L.EV.04.21 Identify individual differences (color, leg length, size, wing size, leaf shape) in organisms of the same kind.

L.EV.04.22 Identify how variations in physical characteristics of individual organisms give them an advantage for survival and reproduction.

L.EC.04.11 Identify organisms as part of a food chain or food web.

L.EV.05.11 Explain how behavioral characteristics (adaptation, instinct, learning, habit) of animals help them to survive in their environment.

English, Reading and Writing

R.NT.04.03 analyze characters' thoughts and motivation through dialogue, various character roles, and functions including hero, anti-hero, or narrator; know first person point of view and identify conflict and resolution.

R.CM.04.01 connect personal knowledge, experiences, and understanding of the world to themes and perspectives in text through oral and written responses.

R.AT.04.01 be enthusiastic about reading and do substantial reading and writing on their own.

R.NT.05.03 analyze how characters' traits and setting define plot, climax, the role of dialogue, and how problems are resolved.

R.CM.05.03 analyze global themes, universal truths, and principles within and across text to create a deeper understanding by drawing conclusions, making inferences, and synthesizing.

S.DS.05.01 engage in interactive, extended discourse to socially construct meaning in book clubs, literature circles, partnerships, or other conversation protocols.