

Book 35

The School Camp

Chapter 1

Settling In

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friend FRIEND friend friends friend friends friendly

coach activities field shower centre

hungry smooth slimy leak canvas

potatoes lettuce custard sausages

dessert squelch oozy stifle suspicious

I have a best friend and lots of other friends.

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All the children are very excited on Friday. They are going on school camp for the weekend. The bad news is that Mr Snodgrass is in charge! As the coach leaves the school gates, the rain is beating down.

The class are camping on a farm, and on

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Saturday and Sunday they are doing some exciting activities. When they arrive, the farmer has pitched all the tents in a field near the barn.

There is mud, more mud and even more mud, so it is a good thing that most of the children have got wellies with them.

Abi is sharing a tent with her friend Jane and three other girls. Sam is sharing with five boys, including Billy. He is friends with most of them, but he and Billy are not at all friendly with each other.

All the children have jobs to do. Abi and her friends

have to help with cooking the supper. The big barn has been turned into a kitchen at one end. It has showers and toilets at the other end. There is an open area where the children can work or eat in the centre of the barn.

Abi scrubs lots of big earthy potatoes

ready for baking, and then she helps Mrs Stokes to stir a huge pan of custard.

It has to be nice and smooth, says Mrs Stokes. No lumps!

Sam's job is washing the salad.

The children are very hungry, and eat all the

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sausages, beans and jacket potatoes in no time. Most of them even eat the salad, until Abi shouts, and spits something out. It is a slimy slug which Sam did not wash off the lettuce!

Thanks, Sam, chuckles Abi. You are

supposed to be my best friend!

Mrs Stokes brings in the dessert. It is
peaches mixed with custard.

It looks like a bowl of goldfish, says
Sam.

Abi doesn't like the taste or texture at

all. The peaches are slithery, and there are floury lumps in the custard!

I'm no good at washing salad, and you're even worse at making smooth custard, says Sam.

It is still raining at bedtime. Mr Snodgrass tells the children not to touch the sides of the tents,

as the rain will leak in if they do. It takes quite a time, but at last the children are in sleeping bags and the tents are zipped up. The rain makes a drumming noise on the canvas. Abi likes the noise, and it is dry and warm inside the tent.

Billy keeps touching the sides of the boys'

tent.

Drip, drip! Splash, splash!

**Soon the boys are moaning as the rain drips
on the pillows and sleeping bags.**

**In the girls' tent, Abi and her friends are
sharing out sweets and coke for a feast. They are**

making a lot of noise, so Mr Snodgrass keeps telling them off.

At last they go to sleep. But Abi has drunk a lot of coke, and soon she needs the toilet. She wakes her new friend, Martyna, who has a torch.

**The girls squelch to the barn in pyjamas,
coats and wellies.**

**I think I can hear pigs nearby, whispers
Martyna.**

**That's Mr Snodgrass snoring, says
Abi. Shall we try to shut him up?**

The girls move very quietly, pulling some of his tent pegs out. The snoring is very loud from inside the tent. Abi and Martyna try not to chuckle as they sneak back to bed.

All is quiet, except for the snoring! The rain has stopped, but the wind is blowing hard as

dawn breaks. All the tents flap about, and with so few pegs holding it up, Mr Snodgrass's tent is blown down.

A very loud yell wakes the whole camp. It is Mr Snodgrass. He was dreaming, and as his tent collapsed, he dreamed that huge birds were

flying down to peck him! Mr Snodgrass thrashes about under his tent, trying to get out.

Just as Abi's friend Jane peeps out to see what is going on, she sees Mr Snodgrass crawling out of the heap of canvas. As he tries to stand up, he slips, and falls face down in

the thick, oozy mud! The girls try to stifle the noise of chuckling, but Mr Snodgrass hears them. He is rather suspicious that they may have been involved in his tent falling down. Ah well, he thinks, there's plenty of time to arrange a little surprise for them later!

Abi says

What did we have for supper?

Why did my friend think there were pigs nearby?

Write about a scary dream you can remember

having.