



# Storytelling

## EVALUATION SHEET

### INSTRUCTIONS

Please review the instructions for evaluating the performances of the storytelling contestants. The following criteria are of equal importance to evaluating contestants. Terminology used is only intended to help the judge identify criteria for determining a winner. Please make your comments using language understandable to the contestant. Students and instructors appreciate constructive narrative comments. Please do not confer with other judges before ranking students. Judges' decisions are an individual responsibility.

**Speaker Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Speaker Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Round**  Prelims

**Section** \_\_\_\_\_

Finals

Yes No **Did the contestant communicate effectively with the audience?**

Yes No **Did the contestant command attention?**

Yes No **Did the contestant tell the story with ease?**

Yes No **Did the contestant exhibit enthusiasm?**

Yes No **Did the contestant utilize facial expressions, vocal variety and characterization?**

Yes No **Did the contestant make good eye contact?**

Yes No **Did the contestant use good posture?**

Yes No **Did the contestant speak clearly?**

Yes No **Did the contestant use gestures effectively?**

### CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS FOR THE CONTESTANT:

*Judge's signature* \_\_\_\_\_



Storytelling Contest  
Invitational 2022-23

“Tracks at Coyote Creek”  
Major Elements of the Plot

Grades 2 and 3

**Directions to Contest Directors:** Give a copy of this sheet to each judge before the contest begins.

**Directions to Judges:** Each speaker must include at least one of the following elements from the story in his or her presentation. Words may vary. It is up to the judge to decide if the speaker has included one of the elements.

1. The narrator describes a mystery that happened at their summer camp.
2. While at camp having fun with other campers, the narrator’s friend Taylor discovers a set of big tracks near their campsite. The tracks are like big bird tracks with three toes.
3. The camp counselor assumes someone is pulling a prank, but the campers insist the tracks must be real. The story of the tracks becomes a big story around the summer camp. Then more tracks begin to appear around camp, as well as some scratches on trees.
4. The campers think it might be a bear, but there are no bears at Coyote Creek. The tracks eventually stop appearing.
5. The narrator then explains that it was a prank. The narrator put together special feet to make the tracks and hid the feet from their fellow campers. The narrator hopes no one spoils the mystery and tells their secret.



## Storytelling Contest

Invitational 2022-23

### "Tracks at Coyote Creek"

Grades 2 and 3

by Sherri Maret

Did you hear what happened at Coyote Creek Camp this summer?  
No? Well I'll tell you.

I went to camp, and it wasn't at all like last summer. Why? Because there was a big mystery there.

My camper friends and I did the usual swimming, canoeing, archery, and that kind of thing. We did crafts and were having so much fun. We would build a fire and roast hot dogs and marshmallows. You know, the usual stuff.

That all changed when we woke up one morning. We were talking while laying in our sleeping bags in our big tent when Taylor, my friend, left the tent and then came running back.

"You need to see this!" Taylor yelled.

We all got dressed and went outside. There in the dirt were big tracks. These were like a foot long. They were giant!

“What made these?” Terry asked.

“Looks like giant bird tracks,” Ky said.

The tracks were shaped with three toes that came to a point out front and a heel of some sort in the back.

“Looks like a dinosaur track to me,” I said. Everyone laughed.

“Yeah right. Let’s get the counselor,” someone else said. So that’s what we did.

“Okay, somebody is having some fun. Who made the tracks?” asked our counselor.

We all looked at each other.

“Not me!” Terry said.

“I didn’t do it either,” said Ky.

“Who could have done this?” I asked.

We all talked for a while and the counselor just looked at us and back at the tracks. “Come on. It’s a good prank but one of you must have made these.” Again, no one confessed to making the tracks.

“So, you think it’s a prank?” asked Ky.

Taylor said, “Of course! There is no animal that could make a track that big.”

We went to breakfast. This is where all the different groups met for breakfast and lunch. We made our dinner at our own campsite. The news of the mysterious tracks spread through Coyote Creek like a wildfire. Everyone wanted to see the tracks so that was a busy morning in our campsite.

Another counselor said, “I guess we now have a mystery at Coyote Creek!” Then all the counselors laughed.

The next morning there were more tracks. This time they were by the restroom and showers between our campsite and the one nearby. The tracks led into some weeds and some branches were broken.

“Look, there are giant scratch marks on the tree here,” said one of the campers.

“Bears do that!” another camper exclaimed.

“Don’t worry. No bears in our area,” another counselor chimed in.

At breakfast, everyone was talking about the tracks and scratch marks.

The next morning there were tracks around the trash dumpsters. The tracks disappeared into the rocky hill behind the cabin where the camp leader lived. After that, there weren’t any more tracks found.

That didn’t stop everyone from talking about it.

It was fun to have a little excitement.

“So, are you wondering why I am telling you about this? Here’s why. I am moving so this will be my last time to go to summer camp at Coyote Creek. I wanted it to be amazing. I had the idea to make tracks and make camp a fun adventure. I asked my mom and dad to help me make the feet for tracks. We used some old shoes, plastic bottles, and lots and lots of duct tape. I hid them in my sleeping bag the whole time. Nobody but me, my family, and now you are the only ones to know this secret. Can you keep my secret? I hope so! Because I want the mystery of the tracks at Coyote Creek Camp to never be solved. So please don’t tell. You wouldn’t want to spoil it would you?”



Storytelling Contest  
Invitational 2022-23

“Oh NO! I’m Lost!”

Major Elements of the Plot

Grades 2 and 3

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1. The narrator is lost in the woods. They try yelling, but no one answers.
2. The narrator explains that while camping with their family, they walked off the trail to look at a turtle that turned out to just be a rock. Then they heard a squirrel in a tree, but it turned out to be a porcupine.
3. When they turned around to show their family the porcupine, the narrator discovered they were alone. They began to panic but decided to try and stay calm. They remember that they learned in their junior ranger class that you should “Stop. Sit down. Don’t panic.” when you get lost.
4. The narrator tries to follow the instructions but can’t find the whistle they were supposed to use if they got lost. Then they finally hear their parents calling their name.
5. The narrator is reunited with their family. They were only missing for 10 minutes.



## Storytelling Contest

Invitational 2022-23

“Oh NO! I'm Lost!”

Grades 2 and 3

by Sherri Maret

Oh NO! I'm lost!

Here I stand in the woods all by myself. How did this happen?

I start yelling.

HELLLOOOOOOOOOO! Can anyone hear me?

HELLLOOOOOOOOOO! MOM! DAD! UNCLE THEO! AUNT LULA!

No one heard me. Maybe only the squirrels and birds did. I spun around to see if I could figure out which way I had come.

I also thought about what everyone else might be doing. Why aren't they looking for me? Again, I thought about how I got into this mess.

When everyone stopped for snacks, I wanted to explore. Then I thought I saw a turtle. I walked off the trail to look. I love turtles. It wasn't a turtle. It was just a rock.

Then I heard a rustling up in a tree. I circled a bunch of trees. I guessed it was a squirrel making the noise, but I wanted to see it anyway. Finally, I saw something move in a tree above me. It was a porcupine! I didn't know porcupines climbed trees. I called for mom and dad. I wanted to show everyone.

I yelled. Nothing. Hmmmm. I yelled again. When no one yelled back, I realized I might have gone too far and nobody heard me.



I turned around to walk back to the trail. That's when I realized I didn't know which way the trail was.

My heart started pounding.

Take a deep breath. I need to stay calm. What should I do? Right, right. I need to remember what the park ranger said about this.

My family and I decided to do some camping this weekend. My aunt and uncle wanted to come too and they brought their families. It turned into a family reunion. Me and my cousins were having a great time together. Tonight is the last night we camp and then we go home.

On Friday my cousins and I went to a junior ranger program. It was so fun! We learned about animals here and things people should not do around wild animals. We also looked at different animal tracks and learned how to tell what made the tracks. It was great!

One of the lessons was about what to do when a person got lost. The ranger said that it doesn't matter if you are an old person or a kid, this is what you should do.

Stop. Sit down. Don't panic.

The ranger explained that if you try to find your way but aren't sure where you are, you could get farther away from the point that people last saw you. Stay put. The ranger asked us to repeat the rules.

Stop.

Sit down.

Don't panic.

It was hard not to panic.

The ranger handed out a whistle to all of us. He said that the sound of a whistle could be heard from far away. A person yelling wasn't as loud

and yelling takes a lot of your energy. With a whistle to blow, you wouldn't tire yourself out with yelling. I learned something new for sure.

Hmmmm. Where is my whistle? I check my pockets in my shorts. Nope. Pocket on my shirt. Nope. RATS! I think I left it in the car. That wasn't smart.

I climb a big rock so I can see as far as I can. There are a lot of trees so I can't see very far.

I wait. How long would it take for my parents to find me?

Then I heard my name being called. I yell.

I'm here! I'm here!

My dad comes running through the trees towards me.

My dad told me that he was at the front of the line on the trail and thought I was with my mom who was with my aunt at the tail end of the group. She thought I was with him.

I hear my mom yelling.

My dad yells back.

My mom hugs me and then the rest of the family comes too.

I tell them it was quite an adventure, but I followed what the ranger said to do in case you get lost.

My dad said that he didn't realize I was lost. They thought I was just taking my time following. I had been missing for ten minutes.

To me it felt like hours.

I hope this helps someone who hasn't been to a ranger program about being lost.

My advice is to not get lost in the first place.



Storytelling Contest  
Fall/Winter District 2022-23

“A Horse Story”  
Major Elements of the Plot

Grades 2 and 3

**Directions to Contest Directors:** Give a copy of this sheet to each judge before the contest begins.

**Directions to Judges:** Each speaker must include at least one of the following elements from the story in his or her presentation. Words may vary. It is up to the judge to decide if the speaker has included one of the elements.

1. The narrator is about to visit their grandfather, Pappy, who now owns two horses. The horses are Honey, a brown horse, and Cocoa, a black horse.
2. On their upcoming visit, the narrator is afraid of having to learn to ride the horses, despite reading books about horses and playing with horse toys.
3. The narrator has a phone call with Pappy to discuss the horses and the upcoming visit. The narrator plans to find creative ways to avoid having to learn to ride.
4. When the narrator arrives, Pappy is very excited to teach the narrator to ride. Pappy introduces the narrator to his neighbor, Layla, a girl around the same age as the narrator who is already riding horses.
5. Layla and Pappy teach the narrator to ride Honey, and the narrator learns to enjoy riding. Pappy makes a joke about teaching the narrator to learn to horse jump.



## Storytelling Contest

Fall/Winter District 2022-23

### “A Horse Story”

Grades 2 and 3

by Sherri Maret

My grandfather moved to the country during the summer. We are going for a visit next weekend, and I am a little nervous.

He has horses. Two of them. He sent us some pictures of them. One is a palomino. She is golden brown and has a lighter tail and mane. The other is a black quarter horse. He is a big horse and my grandfather rides him.

This is why I am nervous. He wants to teach me how to ride. I'm not sure I want to learn.

“I bet you're excited about visiting your Pappy! Maybe we should go and get you some boots for riding,” my mom says.

I just pretended not to hear her. Maybe I wouldn't have to learn to ride if I didn't have boots.

Why does everyone think I want to get on a horse? Well, maybe it's because I have always loved reading books about horses and playing with

my collection of horses. I even have a little horse barn. Just because I like reading books about horses and playing with toy horses doesn't mean I want to get way up high on a horse's back.

Maybe I'll pretend I'm sick. My stomach is in knots thinking about it. I don't know what I should do.

I hear my mom's phone ring. She is talking to Pappy. She hands the phone to me.

"Pappy wants to talk to you," she says.

"Hey there kiddo! How are you?" Pappy asks.

"I'm okay," I tell him.

Pappy says, "I can't wait to see you! I think you'll love the new place. It has a lot of trees, a fishing pond, and of course my horses. I think you will love Honey and Cocoa."

"You named the horses Honey and Cocoa?" I ask.

"I didn't name them. They're older horses. An old friend of mine had them and he moved to a place he couldn't have horses anymore. He gave them to me and will come and visit them whenever he can," Pappy explains.

"I see," I tell him.

Pappy asks me about school, and we talk for a while about all kinds of things. I hear Nana say something to him.

“Nana wants to talk to you, too,” Pappy says.

“Hello honey,” she says.

“Hi Nana. How’s your garden?” I ask her. At their old house where my grandparents lived, I would help her in the garden.

“It’s been great but now the pumpkins are taking over. I hope you’ll help me make a pie or two. You can take a few pumpkins home if you want,” she says.

I tell her I can make pies and help her with the garden. Maybe I will be so busy helping Nana that I won’t have time for horses.

Then she tells me, “Don’t worry about boots for riding. Our next door neighbor has a pair you can borrow. I can’t wait to see you. Pappy is so excited to teach you to ride!”

All I can think is OH NO! I think I got even more knots in my stomach. The day comes to go to my grandparent’s house and I feel sick. Like really feel sick. My mother turns to me in the car and asks if I am okay. I shrug and say sure. She smiles and squeezes my hand.

We arrive and Blue, my Pappy’s dog, runs over to us. I do love Blue! He is such a good dog.

“There they are! Blue was so excited to know you were coming!” my Pappy tells me. We take our suitcases into the house and Nana gets us some lemonade. I hear Pappy talking on the phone.

After we finish the lemonade, Pappy asks “Ready to meet Honey and Cocoa?” Everyone is so happy and excited but me.

We head outside and I see the horses and there is a girl on a different horse waiting.

“Hi! I’m Layla and I live next door. Your grandfather thought it would be fun to have me help teach you to ride,” she says.

Wow! She is riding a big white horse. She’s my age or a little older. She isn’t scared at all. Maybe just maybe I can learn to ride. Layla hops off her horse and hands me a carrot. She shows me how to feed the horses, so I don’t get nipped and talks so excitedly about them.

Layla says, “I’ve been helping your grandfather with these two. They are older and very, very gentle. I think you will love riding. You couldn’t pick a better horse to learn to ride on than one of these two.”

With Pappy and Layla helping me, I learn to ride Honey. Pappy likes to ride Cocoa. Layla rides Snowflake. We have a great time. While I make a few little mistakes, these horses didn’t mind at all.

Then, my Pappy says, “You are learning so quickly, maybe we need to enroll you in a horse jumping class!”

I sure hope he’s joking. Then he laughs and I know he is. I’m not quite ready for that.



Storytelling Contest  
Fall/Winter District 2022-23

“I Want a Dog!”  
Major Elements of the Plot

Grades 2 and 3

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**Directions to Judges:** Each speaker must include at least one of the following elements from the story in his or her presentation. Words may vary. It is up to the judge to decide if the speaker has included one of the elements.

1. The narrator wants a dog, despite their parents not believing the narrator is responsible enough to care for a dog. The narrator decides to get creative about demonstrating their responsibility to their parents.
2. The narrator and their mother go to a garage sale at Terry’s house. Terry is a friend of the narrator. At the garage sale, the narrator finds a leash and collar made to look like someone is walking an invisible dog.
3. The narrator takes the toy home and begins to pretend there is a real dog attached to the toy. They take the toy all over town, pretending they need to take their dog to the park for exercise or getting water for the dog while at a parade. The narrator names the pretend dog Houdini.
4. While at these locations, the narrator’s parents notice how responsible and caring the narrator is being toward Houdini.
5. The narrator’s parents decide to allow the narrator to adopt a real dog.





Storytelling Contest  
Fall/Winter District 2022-23

“I Want a Dog!”

Grades 2 and 3  
by Sherri Maret

I want a dog. My mom and dad say that a dog is a big responsibility.

“I don’t think you are ready for a dog yet,” my mom told me.

My dad said, “Your mother and I don’t have the time to take care of a dog.”

I told them I could be responsible. They both shook their heads and said we should wait until I was a little older.

But I don’t want to wait! I want a dog now!

Looks like I won’t be changing their mind. Maybe I can get more responsible, but how can I show them that? I need to think of a way to do this.

One morning my mom asked, “Do you want to go to the neighborhood garage sales with me? Terry’s mom said they were cleaning out their basement, so I know they are getting rid of a lot of things.”

Terry is one of my friends. I like my neighborhood because there are a lot of kids my age here.

I said “yes” and got five dollars out of my bank.

We walked up and down the street looking at all the stuff for sale.

While my mom was talking to Mrs. Carter, I looked at all kinds of things on one of the tables she had.

That is when I saw a leash and collar that was made to look like you were walking an invisible dog. It was a little banged up, but I fixed it. I practiced, and it really looked like I was walking an invisible dog.

I called to my mom, "Look! I have a dog!" I walked around showing her and Mrs. Carter, and they thought it was funny like I did.

Mrs. Carter said, "That has been in a box for years. It belonged to my grandson who is all grown up now."

While mom and Mrs. Carter talked, I walked the invisible dog back and forth in front of her house.

A lady and her little girl stopped me. The lady pretended to pet the dog's head. She turned to her little girl. "Do you want to pet the dog too?" The little girl laughed and pretended to pet the dog. Then the little girl asked, "What's your dog's name?"

"She doesn't have a name yet. I just got her," I told them. That's when I had an idea. I went back to talk to Mrs. Carter.

"I think want to buy this," I said to her.

“Your mom just bought all my canning equipment, so you can have it,” Mrs. Carter said.

“Wow! Thank you!” So, for the rest of the morning, I walked my dog.

When mom and I got home, my dad asked me about it.

I said, “If I can’t have a real dog, maybe I can play with this instead.”

After lunch, we went to the grocery store. I brought my invisible dog with me. “Why don’t you leave that in the car?” my mom asked.

“I know real dogs aren’t allowed in the store, but this isn’t a real dog. Can I please bring it?” My mom shrugged and said okay.

People stopped to look at me and my invisible dog. Some grown-ups just stared. Some of them laughed. Some kids giggled.

I began to take my invisible dog everywhere. Since I didn’t have a real dog, my mom and dad let me.

I named my invisible dog, Houdini.

I took him to the library.

I took him to the post office.

I took him shopping.

I took him with me when I went to get a haircut.

I also took him to the park. I went to the park all the time. My mom asked, “Why are you always going to the park?”

“My dog needs to get some exercise,” I told her.

For a month, I was very responsible about taking care of Houdini. Sometimes I would get funny looks from people. I think if my mom or dad were with me, they got a little embarrassed by it.

One day we were meeting my grandparents at a restaurant. My father asked, “Why can’t your dog stay in the car?”

I told him, “Dad, he isn’t a real dog. He’s imaginary. Invisible dogs are allowed in restaurants.” We had a nice dinner. Houdini didn’t cause any trouble.

One morning we got up to go to a parade. My cousin was going to be marching in the high school band. Of course, I had to take Houdini. My mother sighed. My father shrugged.

When most of the parade walked by, I tapped my mother on the arm to get her attention.

“My dog needs a drink.” My mother looked at me.

“Your dog is invisible and imaginary.” My mother said.

“I am trying to be responsible.” My mother looked at my father. We went looking for water. I was thirsty too.

One morning I returned to my house after playing with Houdini at the park.

My mom said let’s go into the living room.

My dad said, “Have a seat. We need to talk.”

Oh no. I wondered if something bad had happened.

My dad said, “Maybe you ARE responsible. Would you like to go look at some puppies?”

I was so happy and surprised. I dropped my leash and hugged my parents. After looking at puppies for a couple of weeks, I found the dog for me. She is black and brown. She is a mutt. She is snuggly and sweet. And she is all mine.

I have to go now. I need to take my dog for a walk in the park.



Storytelling Contest  
Spring District 2022-23

“Cabin in the Woods”  
Major Elements of the Plot

Grades 2 & 3

**Directions to Contest Directors:** Give a copy of this sheet to each judge before the contest begins.

**Directions to Judges:** Each speaker must include at least one of the following elements from the story in his or her presentation. Words may vary. It is up to the judge to decide if the speaker has included one of the elements.

1. The Smith family is going camping.
2. Dad asks the kids to help build a fire. The children bring sticks for the fire. The family eats hotdogs and marshmallows roasted over the fire.
3. One of the kids sees fireflies (lightning bugs), and the parents teach the children to catch the bugs in a jar. The family then went to bed for the night in their cabin.
4. The family wakes up and goes for a hike. Dad stops to show the kids what looks like gold in the ground. It is fool’s gold, but the kids take it any way as a souvenir from their trip.
5. At the end of the hike, the family looks out from the top of a hill, and they see their cabin, looking very small at the bottom of the valley. They take a family picture before leaving.



## Storytelling Contest

**Spring District 2022-23**

### “Cabin in the Woods”

Grades 2 and 3

by Kathryn Gonzales

The Smith family arrived at their campsite later than they expected. The three children were tired from the car ride yawning and stretching as they tumbled out of the van. Once they realized that the journey was over and the fun could begin they perked right up and headed toward their family cabin.

Mom and dad were unpacking the car urging the kids to help so the three kids ran back to the car to grab their bags, food and all the camping gear that was packed tightly into the vehicle. Mom told the kids to put the food near the fire pit that was outside the cabin so they could eat dinner soon.

Dad signaled for the kids to come over to the fire pit and said “I need help making the fire so I need you all to gather as many sticks as you can.” The kids jumped into action seeking out sticks trying to be the one who could gather the most.

The kids ran over, their arms full of branches urging their parents to judge who got the most. Mom said “you all got so many I can’t tell!” The kids looked at each other proudly and threw their sticks into a big pile.

Once the fire was fully ablaze and the sun had set, dad gave each of them a skewer to roast their own hotdog. Dad showed the kids how to position their hotdogs so they wouldn't get too close to the flames and burn.

Mom exclaimed "don't worry, if it's burnt I will eat it!" A few burnt hotdogs and toasted marshmallows later the family decided it was time to relax.

One of the children stood up really fast and pointed past the campfire, asking, "what is that?"

The rest of the family quickly stood up too and looked in that direction. Mom and dad started chuckling and looked at the kids saying, "those are fireflies, some people call them lightning bugs. Let's grab a few empty jars and catch some."

"Catch them?" the kids yelled. Mom said "Yeah, we used to catch them in jars when I was a kid. Let me show you." Mom grabbed an empty pickle jar and scooped up fireflies one by one midair. The children watched in awe at her lantern made of bugs. Dad passed out extra jars and told the kids to try it themselves.

After a few minutes of jumping and gathering up bugs each child had their own little lantern. Noticing the kids were starting to yawn, their parents lead them inside the cabin for a good night's rest.

The next morning was a late one. After everyone was awake and fed, mom and dad suggested they go on a hike. The kids let out a few groans but came around to the idea. Backpacks on and boots laced up everyone headed outside to the hiking trail.



One by one they trekked up the path to the top of the hill. Dad was in the front leading the family when he slowed down and picked up something shiny. He turned to the kids and said, “doesn’t this look like gold?”

The children’s eyes lit up as they saw what he was holding. “There is more over here” dad said pointing to the spot he got it from. The kids quickly jumped into action digging into the earth and gathering more of the stones.

Dad started laughing “it isn’t REAL gold, its fool’s gold. Still pretty but not worth much” The kids slowed down their mission, but dad told them to take a piece anyway, so they have something to remember their trip by.

After a long hike they finally reached the top of the hill that looks over the valley. Mom pointed in the distance “look we can see our cabin” The kids looked over and gasped at how small the house looked and how high up they were.

Dad urged everyone to sit down and rest while they took in the view and had water and a snack.

Before they headed back down, they asked another hiker to take their photo. The family huddled next to each other and smiled for the camera.



Storytelling Contest  
Spring District 2022-23

“Summer at Grandma and Grandpa’s”

Major Elements of the Plot

Grades 2 and 3

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1. At the beginning of the summer, Pat and Kathy Savage are told by their parents that they will spend the summer with their grandparents.
2. On the drive to their grandparents’ home, Pat and Kathy convince their parents to stop at a gas station for snacks and drinks.
3. Once they arrive at the house, Pat and Kathy run through the front gate to greet their grandparents. Their parents leave the kids to get settled.
4. Pat and Kathy explore their grandparents’ home. They climb a boulder at the bottom of a hill behind the house before their grandpa calls out to them, asking if they’d like to learn to fish.
5. Grandpa teaches Pat and Kathy to fish. Pat catches a fish, but Grandpa releases it back into the water, as they are only fishing for fun. Pat and Kathy go back up to the house to tell their grandma about fishing and how excited they were for the rest of the summer.



## Storytelling Contest

Spring District 2022-23

### “Summer at Grandma and Grandpa’s”

Grades 2 and 3

By Kathryn Gonzales

Spring sprang into summer and something weird was about to go down in the Savage household. Mom and dad sat Kathy and Pat down to have a family meeting. Paul and Tom were the oldest children and sat down also.

Mom and dad told the children that Pat and Kathy would be staying with their grandparents for the summer. Kathy and Pat cried that they didn’t want to go but mom explained that she would be going to nursing school.

The children quickly got on board to spend their summer away.

One-week later, Kathy and Pat packed their bags while Mom and Dad loaded the car. With everyone loaded into the minivan they drove away from their house and headed towards Grandma and Grandpa’s.

An hour into the drive the kids saw the sign for Buc-ee’s and roared “can we please stop and get a snack?” Mom and dad decided it was a good idea and pulled into the gas station. “When we get inside you both can get one snack and one drink” Mom told them.

The family made their way into Buc-ee’s and headed toward the soda fountain. “Be careful” dad said as he handed the children their cups. The

kids were excited to pick out their own drinks and quickly filled their cups up with soda. Kathy slowly walked to the counter where the lids were making sure not to spill while Pat's cup overflowed causing Mom to rescue him from the mess with a wad of napkins.

When everyone was back in the car and settled, they got back on the road to Grandma and Grandpa's.

The trip felt like it was taking forever but once they thought they couldn't be in the car anymore they arrived at their destination. The kids didn't know what to expect since it was their first time there. Dad stopped the car and the kids got out and yelled "we're here!"

The kids noticed a big gate in front of the car blocking the driveway. In the distance they saw their grandparents walking towards them from the house. Kathy and pat saw they could easily unlock the gate and push it open for their car to get through. When the gate was open, the kids took off running down the driveway to say hello and hug their grandparents.

After settling into the house, Pat and Kathy said goodbye to their parents and watched as they drove away.

Behind their grandparent's house, down a steep hill with lots of steps was a river that Pat and Kathy were eager to explore. A little nervous, both children started making their way step by step, lower and lower. Once at the bottom they saw a giant boulder and sprinted toward it. The kids raced to be the first one on top of the massive rock.

After fumbling a few times Kathy hoisted herself up and was the winner proclaiming she was queen of the rock. Pat laughed as he also made his way up and sat with Kathy on top of the boulder.

All of a sudden, they heard a voice yell out from the house. It was grandpa wanting to know if they felt like fishing. Sooner than they could respond grandpa was already down to the river with the fishing gear.

After quickly showing the kids how to bait their hook, grandpa stood up and showed them how to cast their fishing line into the water.

Pat and Kathy caught on quickly and before they knew it Pat already had a fish on the end of his line. Grandpa helped Pat slowly reel in his fish while Kathy jumped with excitement. Grandpa explained that we catch fish for fun as he unhooked the fish from the line and tossed the fish back into the river.

The children couldn't wait to tell Grandma about the fish they caught. Pat and Kathy ran up the stairs, into the house to find Grandma starting dinner.

They told her about their adventure and how excited they were to be there for the summer.