

From the Author's Desk:

Hello Parents and Teachers! Thank you for sharing "The Clue at the Bottom of the Lake" with your readers. It's the second in the Cabin Creek Mystery series. I hope this discussion guide will help them reflect on the story and enjoy it on a deeper level. I've added a picnic idea, a few random activities, and personal tidbits that might be fun for them.

*My very best,
Kristi*

Cabin Creek #2: The Clue at the Bottom of the Lake:

About this book:

It's the middle of the night when Jeff spots someone dumping a large bundle into the lake. It's too dark to identify anyone -- or anything. But the cousins immediately suspect foul play, and plunge right into the mystery. Before they know it, the kids of Cabin Creek are in too deep. Everyone is a suspect -- and the cousins are all in danger.

Illustrated by Cody Rutty. For ages 8-12.
ISBN 9781505317688

Discussion ideas:

<> Part I: [Chapter 1-10]

1. What would you do if you saw someone throw trash into a lake?
2. Discuss two ways to safely enter a lake if you want to swim.
3. If you could spend the summer by a lake or river, what would be your favorite thing to do?

<> Part II: [Chapter 13-23]

1. Tell about a summer job you'd like to have.
2. What would you do if you found something valuable?
3. If you were swimming and saw black clouds with lightning, what would you do?

Activity suggestions:

<> Write - These can be a brief paragraph or several pages:

1. "If I saw a big shiny object in shallow water I would ..."
2. Describe something special you lost and were unable to find.
3. A note to someone you appreciate

<> Draw

1. A lake harbor with boats
2. A tree house
3. An animal you'd like for a pet

<> **Make**

1. Diorama of Blue Lake and its marina
2. A game, like Hangman

<> **Cook**

Fort Grizzly Paw Picnic -- You don't need a secret fort for lunch, but it sure is fun to pack a picnic for friends. Make it simple and nourishing!

Ingredients:

Bread or crackers

Peanut butter & jam, ham & cheese, or avocado & tomato -- pick your favorite sandwich.

Oranges -- I love this tasty fruit that comes in its own protective package.

Potato chips -- My personal weakness!

Water -- Best to use personal recycle-able bottles.

Dessert -- Something sturdy that won't melt or get squished in your backpack: Rice Krispy bars, Fig Newton's, licorice (how I love crispy chocolate-chip cookies!).

Plastic grocery sack for wrappers and orange peels -- you can tie the ends then attach to your backpack until you find a trashcan.

<> **Read** - Cabin Creek Mysteries # 3: The Legend of Skull Cliff
ISBN 9781505370171

Behind the scenes of this story:

When my boys were little our family often went to the Tetons in Wyoming, and we would stay in a log cabin bordering a lake. One night after sunset we heard a motorboat then a loud splash and our imaginations went wild. Had someone thrown in a dead body?

Cabin Creek is a composite of all the quaint mountain towns where I've stayed: Redfish Lake, Idaho; Jackson, Wyoming; June Lake, California and Cloudcroft, New Mexico. Lost Island is patterned after Deer Isle, Maine where I spent two summers as a teenager.

A secret about the author:

When I was a kid my best friend lived across the street. We read Nancy Drew mysteries and loved to imagine ourselves in a secret investigation. As night when we went to bed, we'd signal each other with our window blinds by tugging the strings open and closed, a secret code that only we understood-- just like Jeff, David and Claire!

Contact: I would love to hear about your discussion. Just click the Contact button on my website, kristianagregory.com, and I'll answer you!