

From the Author's Desk:

Hello Parents and Teachers! Thank you for sharing "The Legend of Skull Cliff" with your readers. It's third 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 recipe for trail mix, a few random activities, and personal tidbits that might be fun for them.

*My very best,
Kristi*

Cabin Creek #3: The Legend of Skull Cliff:

About this book:

When a camper disappears from the dangerous lookout at Skull Cliff, the cousins wonder if it is the old town curse at work. Then the police discover a ransom note, and everyone is in search of a kidnapper. But Jeff, David, and Claire can't make the clues fit. Was the bossy boy from the city kidnapped, or did something even spookier take place on Skull Cliff?

Illustrated by Cody Rutty. For ages 8-12.
ISBN 9781505370171

Discussion ideas:

<> Part I: [Chapter 1-8]

1. If you were on a hike with friends but became lost, what would you do?
2. What clothing would you wear for a summer day in the mountains?
3. Name five things you'd pack for an overnight camp-out.
4. What does "Leave only Footprints" mean?

<> Part II: [Chapter 9-16]

1. If you were in the woods how would you build a safe campfire?
2. What good deed could you do on a picnic or on a nature walk?
3. Explain if you've ever jumped to conclusions then learned you were mistaken.

Activity suggestions:

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

1. "If I could be a camp counselor I would ..."
2. Your favorite things to do in summer
3. Describe an older person who inspires you to be a better person.

<> Draw

1. A map of a campsite
2. A tree beside a creek
3. A tent

<> **Make**

1. Diorama of Camp Whispering Pines
2. A simple first-aid kit

<> **Cook**

Jeff and David's Hiking Trail Mix: This fun snack is easy to make with friends and can be combined in all sorts of ways. Hand out sturdy plastic storage bags, gallon-sized is ideal then set out bowls with little scoops so everyone can choose their own mix.

Ingredients:

Mini pretzels

Popcorn

Peanuts, almonds and/or cashews

Raisins or Craisins

Chow Mein noodles

Pumpkin seeds

Chocolate or butterscotch chips (oh, yeah)

Corn Chex

Cheerios

Dried apple or banana slices

Don't forget to take water if you're going on a hike, and a trash bag. Try to leave your picnic spot cleaner than when you found it.

<> **Read** - Cabin Creek Mysteries # 4: The Haunting of Hillside School
ISBN 9781505672206

Behind the scenes of this story:

This mystery is based on a city kid I knew who thought he knew more than his camp counselor.

A secret about the author:

Mr. Wellback reminds me, in part, of my dad who loved to take our family camping, and to cook over an open fire. He showed us how to peel the label off a can of beans, and open it just wide enough to fold back its lid into a smooth handle. He'd set it in the coals until the beans bubbled then removed it with a 'pot holder' so he wouldn't burn his hand.

For reference I used the Boy Scouts of America Fieldbook, which is a rich manual of skills for outdoor adventures and "caring for the land."

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