

From the Author's Desk:

Hello Parents and Teachers! Thank you for sharing "The Case of the Spying Drone" with your readers. It's eighth 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 breakfast idea, a few random activities, and personal tidbits that might be fun for them.

*My very best,
Kristi*

Cabin Creek #8: The Case of the Spying Drone

About this book:

During spring break, college student Ariel (from #3, The Legend of Skull Cliff), takes the cousins and family friend, Mr. Wellback, camping as her assistants: She had grant money to study wildlife with a drone. But when someone breaks into their tents and steals Claire's diary and David's sketchbook, the cousins feel they're being watched. And when a different drone hovers while they're fishing, the kids set out to investigate who is spying on them, and why?

Illustrated by Cody Ruttly. For ages 8-12.
ISBN 9781530196531

Discussion ideas:

<> Part I: [Chapter 1-10]

1. Why is it dangerous to hike in the woods unprepared?
2. Jeff likes being thought of as a leader. What kind of project would you like to supervise?
3. How do you feel when you make a new friend?

<> Part II: [Chapter 11-21]

1. Tell about something embarrassing that happened to you.
2. What are two ways you can look out for a friend or a neighbor?
3. The cousins are passionate about nature. What are some things you can do to respect the environment?

Activity suggestions:

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

1. "If I could safely fly a drone with a camera I would like to see ..."
2. A poem about a lake or river
3. An outdoor experience

<> Draw

1. A trail map
2. A fixed-wing drone, quadcopter, or a jet
3. A cabin in the woods you'd like to visit

<> **Make**

1. Diorama of the cousins' campsite by the lake
2. A table decoration from something you find outdoors

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

<> **Cook**

Ariel's Ready-to-Go Sunshine Breakfast -- A quick and friendly breakfast for four people, before an outing!

Ingredients:

Oatmeal, instant

Cinnamon

Raisins

Applesauce

Crunchy peanut butter, optional

Milk

Oranges, 2-4

Bread for toasting, and butter

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Heat oven to 225 degrees. I like to preheat the bowls in the oven, so the hot cereal doesn't cool off too fast. It also keeps the toast warm while everything else is getting ready.

1. Peel the oranges and arrange the slices on a plate, like rays of sunshine.
2. Toast one-to-two pieces of bread per person, butter to the edges. Cut in half. Place on ovenproof plate and keep warm in oven.
3. Follow directions on the package of oatmeal for four people.
4. Be sure to use a potholder to remove everything from the oven.
5. Fill the warm bowls with your hot oatmeal then sprinkle cinnamon and raisins into each. Instead of sugar my family likes to add applesauce, then a little milk.
6. I love crunchy peanut butter on my toast. It's delicious and adds protein.

**Behind the scenes of this story:**

My husband I are were in a nice peaceful park with our dogs when we heard a loud buzzing. The noise grew louder, then louder as a drone raced by, nearly close enough to hit us. It made me wonder what Jeff, David, and Claire would do if the same thing happened to them. I was further inspired by a news video showing an eagle attacking a drone.

**A secret about the author:**

I visited my cousin who is a professional drone pilot. He took me out to the edge of a canyon and demonstrated flying and landing his quadcopter, and showed me the video technology. It was really cool, though a bit spooky because it sounded like a hive of angry bees coming toward us!

Ariel's drone is named after our son's fast and zippy dog, Turtle.

**Contact:** I would love to hear about your discussion. Just click the Contact button on my website, [kristianagregory.com](http://kristianagregory.com), and I'll answer you!