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**Billie B. Brown: The Midnight Feast**

**By Sally Rippin**

**Illustrated by Aki Fukuoka**

**Learning Outcomes**

Students will:

- Engage with the characters and the story.
- Learn about negotiation, compromise and making the best of an unexpected event.
- Develop writing skills.
- Perform a role-play relating to the themes of the story.

**About the Story:**

Billie and Jack are big enough to go camping in Jack's backyard all on their own. They are going to have a midnight feast! But camping is not quite how they expect it to be. It's dark and scary, and there's not much to do. And when they hear a monster outside their tent, Billie and Jack decide that maybe they're not quite as big and brave as they thought!

**Before You Read the Story:**

Read the back-cover blurb aloud to the class. What do students think will happen in the story? Do they think Billie and Jack are big enough to camp all on their own?

**Questions and Activities:**

*Chapter One*

- Have you ever been camping? What about camping out on your own? Do you think you're big enough to do that?
- Look at the illustration on page 4. How do you think Billie and Jack are feeling?
- What is Billie's favorite meal? What's your favorite meal?
- Jack wants to eat the marshmallows, but Billie says they should wait. What do they do instead?

Activity: Imagine you are going camping. Draw all the things you'll need to take with you.

*Chapter Two*

- How do you think the camping is going so far? Is it as fun as Billie and Jack thought it would be?
- Billie says that they can't watch TV while they are camping, but Jack really wants to watch *Finding Nemo*. What do they do? Why do you think Billie gives in?
- How do Billie and Jack seem to feel about camping outside now that it's dark? What do you think will happen?

Activity: Sometimes in this story, Jack wants to do something that Billie doesn't want to do. Do a short role play about two friends who want to do different things. How do the characters in your role play resolve their problem?

*Chapter Three*

- Billie's dad tells Jack and Billie that "Big people can still get scared." Do you think Billie and Jack will get scared?



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- Jack suggests that they have the midnight feast at nine-fifteen instead of waiting until midnight. Why does Billie say no?
  - Billie wonders if Jack is also a teensy bit scared of the dark. Why do you think she doesn't ask him? Is it OK to be scared of the dark?

Activity: Make up a camping word search! Include words from the story, like marshmallows, flashlight and monster. Then swap with a friend and solve each other's word searches.

#### Chapter Four

- Billie feels glad when she finds out that Jack feels the same as she does. Have you ever thought that someone felt differently than you about something, and then found out that they actually feel the same?
- Billie has an idea at the end of page 39. Can you guess what her idea is?
- Where do Billie and Jack end up camping?

Activity: Write a story about a character who is really looking forward to doing something. Maybe they're going to their friend's house to play, or maybe they have a ballet performance coming up. Then have something happen that they weren't expecting. Maybe their friend is sick, or maybe they hurt their ankle and can't dance! Think about how your character can solve this so that they still have fun, like Billie and Jack do.

*Teacher Tips adapted from Hardie Grant Egmont.*