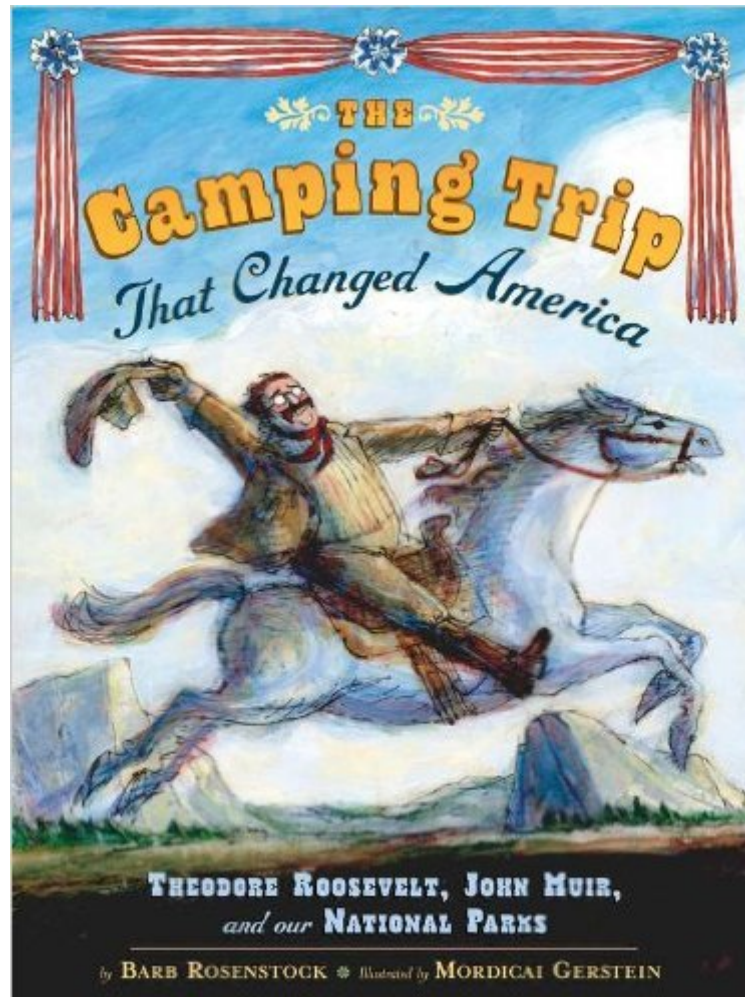


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The Camping Trip That Changed America: Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, And Our National Parks



Synopsis

Caldecott medalist Mordicai Gerstein captures the majestic redwoods of Yosemite in this little-known but important story from our nation's history. In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt joined naturalist John Muir on a trip to Yosemite. Camping by themselves in the uncharted woods, the two men saw sights and held discussions that would ultimately lead to the establishment of our National Parks.

Book Information

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Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

Customer Reviews

It could be said that Teedie and Johnnie were as different as night and day. Teedie, better known as Theodore Roosevelt to those outside his family, was from "one of the oldest, richest families in New York City." John "Johnnie" Muir on the other hand came from a family of "poor immigrant farmers." Teedie was short, Johnnie was tall, but one thing for certain was that they both loved the outdoors and a darn good story. It didn't seem likely that the president of the United States would cotton to a naturalist, but stranger things have happened. In March of 1903, Teddie sat down in his overstuffed chair, put up his slippered feet and began to read. It was one of Johnnie's books, something about his adventures in the Sierra Mountains. Johnnie was asking for help because the "wild forests were vanishing." Teddie decided to write him a letter asking him to "take him camping in California's

Yosemite wilderness" so he could see the situation for himself. The trip was planned and soon the men would meet. Teddy, as the newspapers called him, loved the crowds. The bands played, the people waved, and so Johnnie would have to wait. Soon they were off, heading for their camp. The horses flew like the wind and Teedie began to shout, "I feel like a runaway schoolboy." He grew silent as he saw the towering sequoias in Mariposa Grove, laughed when Johnnie told him the stories about that great growling grizzly, and became awestruck at the sight of Glacier Point. The stories continued, but if people destroyed the wilderness what stories would they have to share? Could Teedie and Johnnie do anything about it? This is an amazing story of two men, Teedie and Johnnie whose little camping trip altered history.

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