

Smokey Bear Storybooks - Warm Coals are Hot Coals!
HelpGood, Inc
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21 Pages

Page 1 Title Page (Illustration - A pile of ashes sits alone, but a tendril of smoke trails from it regardless. In the background, we see Smokey Bear watching the fire from behind a tree.)

Warm Coals are Hot Coals - A Smokey Bear Storybook

Pages 2-3 (Illustration - Chris, Junior, and Rosa are all laying in their sleeping bags inside the tent. A visible scent wafts through the tent. One of Chris's eyes are half open, but Junior and Rosa look fast asleep.)

Chris, Junior and Rosa all woke up to the most wonderful smell as it wafted into their tent. Chris sat up and stretched his arms above his head.

"Man, whatever that is, I want some!" He said, his stomach rumbling.

"I'm so hungry, my tummy feels like it's going to explode!" cried Rosa.

"Your stomach won't explode, silly!" Junior said to her, still laughing.

"It might! You don't know..." Rosa replied. Then she laughed, and Chris and Junior laughed along with her.

"Oh!" Junior exclaimed, slapping his palm to his forehead, "Breakfast!" The three Verde children jumped out of their sleeping bags and hurriedly put on some shoes. They unzipped the tent and walked out into the bright morning sunlight. The sun caused them to squint their eyes but they kept looking for the source of the smell.

Pages 4-5 (Illustration - Chris, Junior, and Rosa all walk out of their tent. We can see their mother Mrs. Verde making breakfast as the campsite can be seen off to the side.)

"Mama!" Rosa yelled as she ran up behind Mrs. Verde and gave her a hug.

"Morning, Ma!" Chris and Junior said in unison. Mrs. Verde hugged each of them.

"Morning to you too," Mrs. Green said to her smiling children. "I hope you're hungry!"

"Oh yeah," said Chris. "So hungry!"

"Well, good," said Mrs. Verde. "Since it's our last day in Yosemite, I cooked the rest of our breakfast food! We have eggs, mushrooms, sausage, and tortillas. Dig in!"

The Verde children grabbed their plates and piled them up with food. They were looking forward to a full day before they had to leave the forest and head home. They really wanted to make the most of it, too. They ate as quickly as they could and filled themselves to the brim.

Pages 6-7 (Illustration - The Verde children all sit around the campfire. Chris's hands are on his full stomach. Junior is leaning back, looking very comfortable. Rosa has her hands up in the air with a big smile on her face.)

"Oh, I'm so full!" Chris cried out as he patted his stomach.

"That was really good, Ma," Junior said. He had leaned back in his seat and looked very comfortable where he was sitting.

"Yeah, Mama! Thank you!" Rosa said to Mrs. Verde. The boys followed suit and thanked their mother too.

"Aww, " Mrs. Green said with a proud smile on her face. "You guys are very welcome! You make me so happy to cook for you." The Verde family were all smiles after their excellent breakfast in the forest.

"So," started Mrs. Verde, "What do you kids plan to do with your last day in Yosemite?"

"Everything!" cried Rosa. Mrs. Verde chuckled at her young daughter's response.

"Well, you don't have time to do everything, silly bear! But, you do have time to do some things."

"We're going to go on a short hike," said Chris.

"We want to see waterfalls!" Junior added in.

Pages 8-9 (Illustration - The Verde family all happily helps to clean the campsite after breakfast. Mrs. Verde is washing pans while Junior collects garbage and Rosa collects their metal plates and silverware. Chris is walking away with a bucket in hand.)

"That sounds great, you guys," said Mrs. Verde. "Why don't we clean breakfast up before we go? Will you help me?"

"Hmm..." the three Verde children wondered aloud as they teased their Mother. "Oookaaayyy!" they cried in unison. They picked up their paper plates and threw them in a trash bag. Mrs. Verde cleaned her cast iron pans with some water they had brought with them.

"Oh Chris," Mrs. Verde called out to the eldest of her three children as she continued cleaning pans. "Can you put out the fire for me? You know how to do it, right?"

"Yeah, Ma! Sure," Chris said with a smile. He felt proud to know his Mom trusted him with this kind of task. Chris grabbed a bucket from the campsite and walked off to a nearby stream.

Page 10 (Illustration - Chris, a look of intense concentration on his face, walks away from the stream with a very full bucket of water. the water sloshes around in the bucket.)

Chris reached the stream and filled his bucket with some nice, cool water. As he headed back to the campsite, he made sure to walk very carefully to keep the sloshing water from spilling onto the ground. He made it back with only a tiny bit having spilled out! Chris was happy with himself for being careful and doing a good job.

Page 11 (Illustration - Chris, now back at the campsite, pours the bucket of water onto the small campfire.)

Back at the site, first, Chris poured the entire bucket of water over the fire. The flames had mostly died down by now, so he didn't have to risk burning himself. The fire popped and sizzled and it sent a great big cloud of smoke into the air. Chris watched it rise up and up until it

disappeared in the morning breeze. He made sure every part of the fire and its ashes had been coated with water.

"There. That should do it," Chris said to himself. "It was such a small fire anyways!"

Page 12 (Illustration - Chris stirs the ashes and water together into a sludge with the use of a shovel.)

Next, Chris grabbed a shovel that the Verde family had brought with them for this very purpose. He stirred the ashes around with the shovel and watched as bits of smoke rose from them and disappeared into the air. The ashes were now a kind of slushy mud. Chris couldn't see anymore smoke coming from the ashes, so he figured the fire was completely out. He walked away to help his family finish their clean-up so they could get a start on the fun day they were expecting to have.

Page 13 (Illustration - The Verde family surveys their work. The campsite looks incredibly neat and orderly - not a scrap of garbage anywhere!)

The Verde family finished all their clean-up. Because it was their last day in the forest, they went ahead and cleaned up their entire campsite too. The car was loaded up, and all their things were put away. They'd made sure to pick up every scrap of garbage they brought with them, and even threw away some trash that previous campers had left at their site. They were ready to start their hike.

Pages 14-15 (Illustration - Mrs. Verde leads the way down a trail and off away from the campsite.)

"Lead the way, Mama!" Rosa called out to Mrs. Verde.

"Okay, honey!" Mrs. Verde said as she set off down a trail. The kids all followed her, with Chris taking up the rear.

"Hold on a minute, folks!" a deep voice called out from behind them.

The Verde family turned around to see who it was. Standing there was the great big figure of none other than Smokey Bear!

"Smokey!" The Verde children cried as they ran up to the big bear to hug him. Smokey laughed happily and hugged the children back.

"We're so glad to see you, Smokey!" Junior said to Smokey.

"What's up, Smokey?" asked Chris. "What brings you to our neck of the woods?"

Pages 16-17 (Illustration - Smokey Bear holds the backs of his hands to the fire that Chris put out. A look of pain fills his face, as the coals are still somewhat hot.)

Smokey chuckled at Chris's joke.

"You guys did a really great job of cleaning up your campsite," Smokey said. "And, Chris, good job on that fire." Chris smiled at Smokey Bear's commendation.

"But," said Smokey, "You forgot one thing. You didn't check the ashes with the back of your hand to make sure the temperature was safe."

Smokey walked up to the ashes and tried to stick his big bear paws inside them but he had to jerk back quickly.

"Ouch!" he cried out. "Those ashes are still pretty warm. If the ashes are warm, then that means they can still cause a wildfire, so be careful." Smokey poured some more water onto the fire and stirred it around some more with his own shovel until the wisps of smoke disappeared in the now soupy firepit.

Page 18 (Illustration - Smokey stirs some more water into the fire with his shovel. The Verde children are all gathered around as they watch and listen to Smokey intently.)

Smokey Bear felt the ashes with the back of his hands and determined it was now definitely cool enough to be left alone. Chris, Junior and Rosa each took turns feeling the fire with the back of their hands. They could see now what Smokey meant when he said it had to be cool, and he meant no heat at all! The ashes now felt about as cold as the water from the stream.

"See?" said Smokey.

Page 19 (Illustration - Smokey Bear has his hand on Chris's head. Chris's face looks apologetic, but Smokey has a big smile plastered on his.)

"Sorry I messed up, Smokey..." Chris said as he looked at the ground.

"Well, now you know what to do, Chris! And so do the rest of you." Smokey said. He put his hand on Chris's head. "I think you'll do it perfectly next time, right?"

"You bet I will, Smokey!" Chris replied enthusiastically.

"And you can help me even more if you tell your friends what you learned here today."

"Will do, Smokey!" said Junior.

Pages 20-21 (End) (Illustration - Smokey Bear walks away as he waves goodbye to the Verde family. The Verde family in turn walk away to once again begin their hike. They all wave goodbye to Smokey as they disappear from one another's sight.)

"Alright, folks," said Smokey. "I'm off to help more good people such as yourselves. I'll always be here to remind you about what you can do to help prevent wildfires." The Verde children hugged Smokey one more time and rejoined their Mother on the Yosemite National Park hiking trail.

As the Verdes happily bounded off into the woods together, Smokey waved goodbye saying, "And don't forget, only YOU can prevent wildfires."

The End