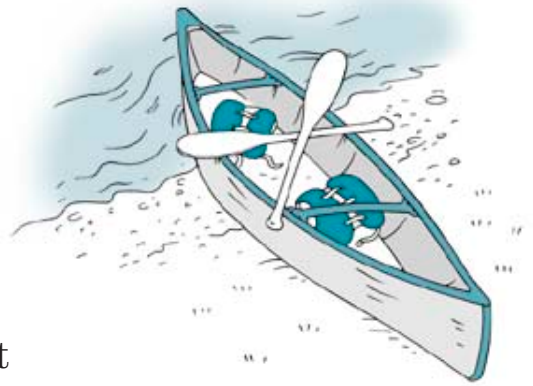


◆ Lesson 3

Into the River!

What Do You Know?

Tommy learns to canoe for the first time in “Into the River!” His skills are put to the test when he falls into the river.



Answer the following questions.

1. Have you ever been in a canoe or a boat?

2. Where do people go to canoe?

3. What should you wear in the water to keep you safe?

4. How would you dress for a canoe trip?

5. What might you see on a canoe trip?

6. If you could take a canoe trip, where would you go?

Read “Into the River!” to find out what happens to Tommy after he falls into the river.




Into the River!

Have you seen the Fox River in Wisconsin? It is a great place to canoe. The Cunningham family loves the Fox River. Every year they meet to canoe down the river.

Grandfather and Grandmother Cunningham are always there. They live in Wisconsin. Their children come from all over the United States to be there too. And most of the their children's children come to canoe too. But Grandfather and Grandmother say that the children must be ten years old before they can canoe. The children also have to swim very well.

This was the first year Tommy could go. He could always swim very well. He learned to swim when he was seven. The big thing was that he turned ten last winter. At last he could canoe on the Fox River!



Even if you were ten, there was another thing you had to do the first time you came to Fox River to canoe. You had to go with Aunt Harriet. She could canoe and swim better than any of the family. Aunt Harriet would always teach the ten year olds how to canoe.

When Tommy first climbed into the canoe, Aunt Harriet said, “Tommy, get ready to beat the rest of the family.”

“The canoe trip is a race?” asked Tommy. “I thought it was just a fun trip down the river.”

“Well, most of the family wants to be the first down the river,” said Aunt Harriet. “But it is a race to see who can be last.”

“Last?” asked Tommy.


“Sure,” said Aunt Harriet. “It is fun. You get more time to relax in the sun. And we only do this trip once a year. We should take our time.”

Tommy thought that sounded good. He had been a little afraid of the Fox River. If they could go slow and relax, he would not be afraid.

Tommy sat in the front of the canoe. He was ready.

“You have got to put this on before we head out,” said Aunt Harriet as she gave Tommy a life vest.

Tommy knew that in a canoe a life vest was needed. If he fell into the river, the life vest would keep him on top of the water.



Tommy and Aunt Harriet each put on a life vest. Aunt Harriet moved the canoe into the river and jumped in. They were off.

The river was quiet. The rest of the family was already ahead of them. “Everyone is ahead of us. Looks like we will be last for sure,” said Tommy.

As they went down the river, Aunt Harriet made sure Tommy knew how to canoe well. But they were slow. The rest of the family was now far ahead of them.

When Tommy and Aunt Harriet came to a split in the river, Tommy did not know if his family had gone down the split to the left or right.


Even Aunt Harriet did not seem to know. Then she said, “We will take the split to the right, Tommy.”

So off they went to the right. As soon as they started that way, the river started to get rough.

“Hang on, Tommy,” said Aunt Harriet. “Looks like we are in for a rough ride!”

Tommy was hanging on, but when they hit a very rough spot of water, the canoe turned to one side. Tommy fell out of the canoe and into the river!

When Tommy went under the water, at first he was afraid. But then he remembered that the life vest would help him. He did relax a little, and the vest helped him come to the top of the water.



Tommy saw that Aunt Harriet was still in the canoe. It did not take him long to swim to her. She helped him climb back into the canoe. “Boy,” said Tommy, “that was really fun! The water was great.”

“You did well, Tommy,” said Aunt Harriet. “Now we know you will do well, too, if rough water *really* knocks you of the canoe.”

“What do mean by *really*?” asked Tommy. “Aunt Harriet, did you turn the canoe so I would fall out?”

Before Aunt Harriet could answer, Tommy saw that Grandmother and Grandfather were in a canoe behind him. They must have been there all the time!

“Tommy,” said Grandmother, “we do this every year a ten year old comes with us for the first time.”

“You do?” asked Tommy.

“Yes, we do,” said Aunt Harriet. “We want to make sure you know what to do.”

“And you do!” said Grandfather with a smile.

“That is right,” thought Tommy. “I do.” That made him feel great.



What Did You Find?

Circle the letter in front of each correct answer.

1. Grandfather and Grandmother Cunningham live in _____.
 - a. Hawaii
 - b. The North Pole
 - c. Wisconsin
2. The children must be _____ years old to canoe.
 - a. four
 - b. ten
 - c. two
3. _____ taught Tommy to canoe.
 - a. Grandmother
 - b. Grandfather
 - c. Aunt Harriet
4. Aunt Harriet gave Tommy a _____ for safety.
 - a. life vest
 - b. lucky penny
 - c. paddle
5. Tommy and Aunt Harriet came to a _____ in the river.
 - a. shark
 - b. split
 - c. tree
6. Aunt Harriet tipped the canoe to _____.
 - a. be mean
 - b. make sure Tommy knew what to do in the water
 - c. have a good laugh

Author's Purpose

Readers should try to understand why an author writes a story the way he or she does—the author's purpose for writing. Authors write to *entertain*, so that people enjoy reading. Authors write to *inform*, so that people learn something. Authors write to *persuade*, so that people will think the same way the author does. Authors often write using two or even all three purposes at once.

Read the sentences in the box below, and think about the author's purpose.

Inform	Fox River is in Wisconsin.
Entertain	Tommy had great adventures on his canoe trip.
Persuade	You should always wear a life vest when you canoe.

Read each of the following book titles. Think about the author's purpose. Write *entertain*, *inform*, or *persuade* on the lines below. Some titles may have more than one purpose.

1. A Guide to Canoeing _____
2. Everyone Must Try Canoeing _____
3. Why Fox River Is the Best Place to Canoe _____
4. The Boy with the Flying Canoe _____
5. Aunt Harriet's Canoeing Handbook _____

Writing Using Author's Purpose

Read the sentences below. Think about the author's purpose. Write *entertain*, *inform*, or *persuade* on the line after each example. One purpose will not be used.

1. Tommy was hanging on, but when they hit a very rough spot of water, the canoe turned to one side.

2. Tommy knew that in a canoe a life vest was needed. If he fell into the river, it would keep him on top of the water.

Write *entertain*, *inform*, or *persuade* on the line next to each example. Some examples may have more than one purpose.

3. A fairy tale _____

4. The weather forecast _____

5. A joke book _____

6. An article telling why there should be more recesses at school

7. A cookbook _____

8. A book about why one type of canoe is the best
