

### Picture Book Extender

Share these extender activities as a follow up to reading the book aloud.

*A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever*

By Marla Frazee

2008

Gr. K-2

**Summary:** James travels to the beach to stay with his friend Eamon and Eamon's grandparents, Bill and Pam, who have arranged for the boys to attend Nature Camp. Although they have a wonderful time—eating Pam's banana waffles, sleeping on a blowup mattress, and playing video games—they take little note of world around them until, during a Friday night beach stroll, they discover the nature that was always there.

#### Discussion Questions:

Whose idea is it for the boys to attend Nature Camp? How do James and Eamon feel about camp? Give some examples from the story that show what they think about camp. In many places the words and pictures in this story do not match. The author says James arrives "with just a couple of his belongings," yet the picture shows James standing in front of many large boxes and bags. What are some other examples of words and pictures that do not match? Whose point of view do the words match? (James's mom) Whose point of view do the pictures match? (James and Eamon) Why is this a good way to tell the story?

What do you think James and Eamon enjoyed most about their week with Bill and Pam?

#### Activities:

Take students on a walk outside to collect some items from nature—like those that James and Eamon collect—rocks, shells, and pieces of wood. Have the class create a museum and ask individuals to describe each exhibit for the group. For more information about this book and creating museum objects, see the website for this book at <http://www.harcourtbooks.com/coupleofboys/interview.asp>.

Ask students to think of a time when they and a friend had "the best time ever." Have them draw a picture of what happened. Then ask them to create a caption for their art that represents what their mother might say if she were describing this incident.

#### Related Titles:

*Beach Day* by Patricia Lakin

*July* by James Stevenson

*The Hello, Goodbye Window* by Norton Juster

*Flotsam* by David Wiesner

**Related Curriculum:** Language Arts; Science

Author Information: Marla Frazee's website: <http://www.marlafrazee.com>

For more Novelist content using this book: Vacations; Humor; Playing; Friends and Friendship.

Created by: Kay Weisman, September 3, 2009

*Ms. Weisman, a former school and public librarian, reviews for Booklist and studies children's literature at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver.*