

Exemplar 1:

Dear Journal,

The camping trip I went on with Steve and his dad was absolutely crazy, unexpected fun. I will never forget it. Steve called up late one sunny, but boring afternoon to invite me to come along with him and his dad camping. I thought it would be regular trip, but I was so off base! As we drove along the back, twisty roads lined with pine trees on the way to the campsite, the car suddenly blew a tire. Bamm! But that just the first thing that happened. When we set up the tent, it began to snow, heavy, glistening snowflakes. First, they didn't believe that it was actually snow in the middle of March. Steve's dad rushed us into our tent, carefully keeping soggy, frigid snow out of our tent and sleeping bags. When we were in our tent at long last, Steve's dad passed out sandwiches then another thing happened. Steve's dad reached for the big cola bottle to pour us some drinks. When Steve's dad opened the bottle, it erupted like a volcano. All the bottle's contents splattered on the tent floor. We had to use our towels to clean up the mess. But the mishaps were not over! The final thing happened the next morning. When we got in our boat to go fishing we didn't even get a nibble on our rods. Then the boat began to sink. I asked, "Is there supposed to be that much water in the boat?" Steve's dad grabbed the thruster and started going to the shore. The boat sank before we made it to the shore. That is the camping trip that no one expected. When they invited me to go on a trip to the big city, I only asked, "When do we leave?", with a huge grin!

Goodnight for now Journal, Derrick

Exemplar 2:

Derrick's Journal Entry 1-14-15

Guess what? I got invited to go on a camping trip with this boy, and his name is Steve. I am actually the new family in the neighborhood so I was surprised he invited me. I'd never been camping. Since I love roughing it and finding my own food, I said yes.

As we drove down a road full of potholes early in the sunny morning just after we left, the tire on his car ran over something and lost all the air before we even got to the campsite. I wasn't that impressed. I mean why did his car get a flat tire? I've never heard of that happening to anyone. I worried we would never get to experience camping, especially fishing. Finally, we arrived. I noticed the tall pine trees and light glimmering through and landing on the soft bed of pine needles where we decided to set up camp. Once we set up the tent Steve's dad wanted to give us something to drink. He brought a big bottle of cola and he opened it and it exploded! It was not funny, and funny at the same time! I mean now the tent was all wet after he made a big deal about us not getting any snow in the tent. I wondered how I would sleep in all the wet, sticky mess.

Also, while we were setting up the tent I saw little white things coming down piling the ground, and before we knew it we figured out that it was snow! Steve's dad was so surprised because it was March. The next morning we were going to go out and catch fish for breakfast. When actually didn't end up catching any fish. We were singing songs to try to catch the fishes and made fishy faces.

Steve and his dad told me it was going to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience and it was.

Exemplar 3

OK I have to write a journal entry about a trip I took. Well as I was reading a good book with my dog snuggled next to me on my front porch, Steve and his dad called to invite me to go on a

camping trip. Before answering, I thought carefully, then decided I would go. I don't know Steve well but I love new adventures.

When they arrived in the early morning, I could hear the birds singing in the misty morning silence. I noticed that my stomach felt funny. Nerves? As we drove out of my twisty, long driveway and began to head to the campsite, we got a flat tire along an old, empty road. Steve's dad told me that it was just a minor setback as Steve and I went out of the car to help. Then, once we got to our campsite it started to snow heavily with big, wet snowflakes shooting down from the clouds. Steve burst out laughing, while I finally let out a grin. Nothing seemed to make him nervous! Steve's dad set up the tent and rushed us in but he made sure we didn't bring any snow inside. That's when something else unexpected happened.

Once we all were settled in the tent Steve's dad gave us sandwiches and he reached for the cola. I'm pretty sure he shook it too much. When he opened it....it EXPLODED!!! The cola spilled all over the tent floor. The tent got all wet. And he had told us not to bring any snow in! Steve and I were laughing a lot inside, but we were trying not to show it. Steve's dad although, was not so happy. The next morning we went fishing. We didn't catch any fish though. But it was still fun. Plus the boat started to sink. We barely got to shore. Steve's dad was startled, and so were we. I saved some of the broken boat pieces in my bag.

I'd been cautious about going and felt so nervous when we first left. Then everything went wrong, but I felt fine and had a blast! I guess getting nervous really is a waste of time. That is my journal entry. I'm putting one of the small boat pieces in my special keepsake box.

Exemplar 4:

"Camping?" I asked? I wanted to be sure I understood the question. I'd never been camping. I wondered what it would be like when my new neighbors invited me to go camping with them. "Sure! I'd love to go. Thanks for inviting me!", I replied when my new friend Dave explained that yes he had meant the real thing – sleeping outdoors in tents, hiking and generally roughing it outdoors.

As I loaded my backpack into the car, I noticed how jam packed it was with tents, poles, food and all the fixings we would need. When we finally arrived, the comedy all began to play out. In the pitch black night, we saw beautiful snow flakes begin to fall. Oh no! That is when it just began. Dave's dad felt so bad. He couldn't believe it would snow this time of year!

"Watch out!", I yelled. Dave and I had a total blast tossing snow balls and making snow angels. Dave's dad looked worried and complained, cautioning us to keep the floor dry. Dave and I couldn't care less about keeping dry. We thought the snow was the best part yet.

But after we went to sleep, when we woke up the real camping adventure began. Today we actually would catch a real meal! Now it began to feel like the camping trips I'd seen in movies! Until.... After several hours, no fish were in sight. The whole experience just struck me as way too funny. I tried to hold my breath and hold in my giggle, but couldn't. I was worried I'd be rude, but then I saw both Dave and his dad with big smiles too. It just didn't end. Soon our boat filled with water. Again, I didn't want to fall apart into hysterical giggles because it was all so funny. I wanted to be respectful and show my appreciation for coming along on this adventure. So I held it together and asked if there should be this much water in the boat. Dave and his dad broke into enormous smirks again.

“I never would have imagined camping really was as much fun or more fun than what I see in the movies,” I told Dave and his dad when they dropped me back at home.

I was glad my neighbor invited me out for this new experience. I was also glad he and his dad turned out to be such fun, nice people. The trip was nothing like what I had imagined but I learned that people, not events, are what make the trip fun.