



CHILDREN'S
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OF CANADA



something
in Common



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FIVE MILE



Every summer, children gather at camp to make new friends.
Some are meeting old friends and others are meeting new
friends for the first time.

A young boy with dark hair, wearing an orange long-sleeved shirt and brown shoes, sits alone at a wooden picnic table in a forest. He has a sad expression, resting his head on his hands. The background shows tall evergreen trees and a clear blue sky.

Leo is new to camp and does not know anyone.
He feels lonely and shy.

He wonders if he will make any friends, or if
anyone would want to be friends with him.

A young woman with dark skin and curly hair, wearing a yellow camp counsellor shirt with a name tag that says 'Wiggle' and a headband with yellow flowers, sits next to Leo at the picnic table. She is smiling and has her hand on Leo's shoulder. Leo is now smiling back. The background is the same forest setting.

A friendly camp counsellor walks up to Leo,
who is sitting on his own.

'Hi Leo!' says the camp counsellor,
'My name is Tsehay.'

She sits down next to Leo and smiles
at him. Leo smiles back and starts to
feel a little better.

'Have you met anyone else here at camp, Leo?' Tsehay asks him.
Leo shakes his head.

'Not yet,' he says. 'Making friends looks hard.'





Tsehay thinks for a moment.

'Sometimes, it can happen quickly,' Tsehay finally says.
'Other times, people like to get to know each other first.
They like to find things they have in common before they
make friends.'

Tsehay then asks Leo
if she could tell him
her story.

Leo says yes.

'I am sixteen years old and I love to dance!' says Tsehay.

'I was born in Ethiopia, where I had a birth mom who wanted to keep me safe and placed me in an orphanage. And that is where I met my parents. They adopted me and brought me to my new home.'

'I now live in Australia with my mom and dad and little brother.'

Leo is surprised to learn that he and Tsehay might have something in common. He is glad he met Tsehay.



'Would you like to meet some other campers with stories like mine?' Tsehay asks Leo.

Leo is still shy, but says yes.

So, Tsehay and Leo walk over to a camper named Casey, who is sitting under a tree.



Casey is making bracelets out of colourful yarn. Tsehay asks Casey if she can tell Leo about herself.

'Sure!' says Casey.

'I am ten years old. I came to camp with my best friend. Her birth parents have become my foster mom and dad.'



**'Do you have many friends?'
Leo asks Casey.**

**'Yes, I made many friends when
I started at my new school,'
says Casey.**

**'I made some friends at camp, too, so I have been
making all of these friendship bracelets.'**

**Leo cannot believe it — he may have something in
common with Casey, too!**



**Leo smiles. He is glad
he met Casey.**

Tsehay and Leo then walk over to the soccer field, where another camper, called Sam, is kicking around a ball.

Tsehay asks Sam if they can tell Leo about themselves.



'Okay!' says Sam.

'I am twelve years old and I like reading and sports. I used to live in a foster home until I got adopted by my mom.'



'What is your mom like?' Leo asks Sam.

'She is amazing! It took a while for us to get to know each other properly,' says Sam.

'But now I feel like my home is with her.'

Leo smiles. It is nice to find something in common with Sam, as well.


Leo is glad he met them.



Tsehay and Leo walk over to the campfire. Another camper is roasting marshmallows.

'Hi Surya!' says Tsehay to the camper, 'This is Leo.'



An illustration of three children camping at night in a forest. A boy named Leo, wearing an orange long-sleeved shirt and tan shorts, is kneeling on the left, waving his right hand. A girl named Surya, wearing a yellow long-sleeved shirt with 'The Wiggles' logo and black pants with a yellow stripe, stands in the center. Another boy is sitting on the right in a folding camp chair, wearing a yellow and green shirt and blue pants, waving his left hand while holding a marshmallow on a stick over a campfire. The campfire is made of stones and has a bright flame. To the right of the fire, there is a bowl of marshmallows and a plate of s'mores on a log stump. The background shows tall evergreen trees and a dark blue night sky with stars.

Leo waves at Surya and Surya waves back.

'I am going around meeting other campers and making friends,' says Leo.

'Can I tell you about myself?'

'Okay, sure!' says Surya.

'My name is Leo. I am eight years old.'

'I live in what is called kin care with my grandma. I call her Kokum.'

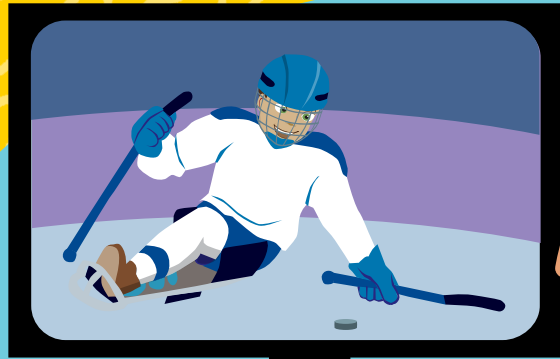
'I like going to pow wows with her, where I can dance and listen to the drums.'



'Hi Leo!' says
Surya.

'I have a grandma,
too, and I also like
sports!'

'My favourite sport
is hockey!'



'I live in a group home
with my heart family,'
says Surya.

'I call the other kids
who live with me my
heart family because
we did not all grow up
together. We grew in
each other's hearts
once we got to know
each other.'



Leo and Surya are glad
to meet each other.

All the campers have now gathered around the campfire. Tsehay helps Surya pass roasted marshmallows to everyone.



Leo surprises Casey with a friendship bracelet that he has made for her. It has special beads, like the ones he wears to pow wows.

Leo is happy that Tsehay helped him make new friends.

Everyone, including Leo, has a special story. When you better understand someone's story, you can be a better friend.



Next year, when Leo goes back to camp, he will be happy to help another lonely camper make new friends, too.

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Lonely and shy, Leo wonders if he will make any friends at Camp Wiggles. But, thanks to Tsehay and a few friendly campers, Leo will soon learn how making friends can be easy when you are open to sharing and finding something in common.

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