



Target Age:
Pre-K / Kindergarten



CLASS Focus Area:
Instructional Support &
Social-Emotional Development



PRE-READING (Building the Scaffold)



Introduce the Concept: We're reading about Hector, who goes camping and hears tales about a **legendary**, giant creature called the Quacken! We'll explore how stories can seem scarier in our minds and how courage helps us face the unknown.



Vocabulary Preview – legendary: Legendary means famous from big stories or tall tales that people pass along, even if it might not be real. Have you ever heard a funny or spooky story about a giant monster?



First-Look Prediction: Look at the big duck-shaped shadow on the cover! Do you think the Quacken will be scary, or will Hector and his family find something surprising?



DURING READING (Deepening the Concepts) – Choose 1–2 Opportunities per Reading



Campers gather around the fire sharing stories.

Concept:
Why do campfires and stories make things feel scarier?

Model:
The story says the Quacken haunts the campground. Tell me about a story that made your heart beat fast.

Scaffolding Dialogue:
T: What are the campers doing around the fire?
C: Telling stories.
T: Yes! Tall tales about a mysterious monster duck!

Real-World Connection:
When you hear a strange sound in the dark, what do you do to make yourself feel safe?



Hector starts noticing clues at the campsite.

Concept:
Why does Hector think the Quacken is nearby, and how is he solving the mystery?

Model:
Look at the giant feather and webbed footprints. How would you describe the clues he finds?

Scaffolding Dialogue:
T: What clue did Hector find on the ground?
C: A big feather!
T: A huge feather! He's gathering clues!

Real-World Connection:
Have you ever followed clues to find something missing or hidden?



Hector finally comes face-to-face with the creature.

Concept:
Is the Quacken as terrifying as the legend? Why or why not?

Model:
Hector expected a scary monster, but things turned out differently. How did his feelings change?

Scaffolding Dialogue:
T: What was the Quacken actually like?
C: It was friendly!
T: Yes! Much sillier and friendlier than the stories!

Real-World Connection:
Have you ever thought something would be scary, but it turned out to be fun?



Hector and the Quacken share a playful moment at camp.

Concept:
How did being brave help Hector make an unexpected new friend?

Model:
Look at them sharing camp treats! Describe how Hector treats his new friend.

Scaffolding Dialogue:
T: What are Hector and the Quacken doing?
C: Eating snacks.
T: They're sharing snacks and having fun together!

Real-World Connection:
How can being welcoming help someone who looks big or different feel like they belong?



POST-READING (Connecting & Creating)



Brainstorm & Create: Let's invent our own friendly campground creature! What animal is it, and what snack does it love?



Think & Reflect: Why do you think rumors and stories can get bigger and bigger as people pass them along?



Wrap-Up – Word of the Day: courage

Courage means taking a deep breath and being brave, even when something feels a little mysterious or new. Let's say it together: **courage!**



CLASSROOM TIPS FOR CLASS SUCCESS



5-Second Rule: After asking a question, wait at least 5 seconds before calling on a child or rephrasing to give ample time for imaginative thinking.



Repeat and Extend: Repeat a child's answer and add a rich detail to build language.
Example: Child: "It quacked."
Teacher: "Yes, it let out a loud, funny QUACK right through the trees!"