



# A Week in the Woods

*By Andrew Clements*

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## Collision course

The fifth-grade Week in the Woods is a beloved tradition of Hardy Elementary, where Mark Chelmsley (the Fourth) is pretty much killing time before his parents send him off to an exclusive prep school. But then Mark realizes the Week might be a chance to prove to Mr. Maxwell that he's not just another of the slacker rich kids the teacher can't stand.

But it may be too late for Mark to change Mr. Maxwell's opinion of him. On the first day of the Week, the tension between teacher and student explodes, and in a reckless moment, Mark puts not only himself, but also Mr. Maxwell, in grave danger. Can two such strong adversaries work together to save their lives?

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## A Week in the Woods By Andrew Clements Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #57473 in Books
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- Original language: English
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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

Rich kids are snobs and slackers. They think they're too good for anyone else, and that they don't have to work hard at anything. That, at least, is the opinion of fifth-grade science teacher Mr. Maxwell, and the super-rich new kid, Mark Chelmsley, is showing no signs of transcending the stereotype. Or is Mr. Maxwell just too anti-elitist or ego-driven to notice? Once again, the talented Andrew Clements (*Frindle, The Janitor's Boy*) allows adult characters to "come of age" right along with his adolescent characters in the most refreshing and insightful of ways.

Mark has low expectations of his new school in rural New Hampshire, and he'll be there for less than four months anyway, so he can't let himself get attached. It's the glory of the countryside around him that shakes him awake--and the urban boy's first trek on snowshoes, discovery of an old barn, and rediscovery of Jack London are exciting to behold. For the first time in his busy, absentee parent-controlled life, Mark discovers "his own sense of time--time present--and he had discovered how much this time was worth."

As the reader starts to like this curious, resourceful, clearly *not* lazy kid, Mr. Maxwell's preconceptions start to seem all the worse. It all comes to a head at the school's annual camp out (called A Week in the Woods), where Mr. Maxwell accuses Mark of breaking a rule--without getting all the facts that would have proven his innocence. Mark escapes into the woods before he can be driven home: "If Mr. Maxwell wants to get rid of me so bad, then he's gonna have to find me first!" Will Mark survive on his own in the woods overnight? What will Mr. Maxwell do when he learns his own prejudices have colored his judgment? What starts out as a school camp out turns into a terrifically suspenseful survival story of a man and boy who come head-to-head, and learn a few lessons while they're at it. Readers will be on the edges of their seats! (Ages 9 to 13) --  
*Karin Snelson*

### From Publishers Weekly

Mark, the 11-year-old at the center of Clements's (*Frindle*; The Jacket) brooding and uneven novel, initially has no interest in making friends at his new school in Whitson, N.H., where his constantly traveling parents have just renovated and enlarged a 1798 farmhouse. Knowing that he's headed off to a prestigious boarding school next year, the boy has no incentive for pleasing his teachers and spends much of the day gazing out the classroom window. His science teacher, Mr. Maxwell, passes judgment on Mark before the boy finally decides to give the school a chance ("The only kind of people Mr. Maxwell disliked more than slackers were... buy-the-whole-world rich folks"). A showdown between boy and teacher occurs at the start of the annual environmental program organized by Mr. Maxwell for the fifth graders, who spend a week in a wooded state park. The teacher's discovery of Mark with a tool containing a knife (which actually belongs to another boy) climaxes with a pursuit through the woods. Unfortunately, the suspenseful sequence that follows and the engaging denouement account for only a fraction of the novel. Laborious passages about Mark's family's home and barn and the boy's preparations for the school trip, plus perhaps a bit too much description of Mr. Maxwell's background, bog down the story line and may derail readers drawn to the book's enticing title. Ages 9-13.

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### From School Library Journal

Grade 4-6-Mark, a wealthy 11-year-old fifth grader, moves from Scarsdale, New York to a small, rural town in New Hampshire. His reluctance to make any effort to fit in with his new milieu puts him at odds with his science teacher and outdoor trip sponsor, Mr. Maxwell. The outdoor trip becomes a metaphor for personal

growth and discovery. When Mr. Maxwell discovers that Mark has a knife and decides to send him home, Mark runs away and must use his outdoor skills during his night alone in the woods. Actor Ron Livingston is a solid narrator for this story by Andrew Clements (S&S, 2002). Male characters and vocalizations dominate, except for brief dialogue from Mark's mother and the female school principal. Although Livingston does not provide clearly discernable vocal changes for the different characters, his well-paced diction and the easy-going quality of the narration helps listeners recognize all the characters. There is a lot of descriptive and personal history background narration, especially during tape 2, but dialogue and soliloquies as well as the action pick up again on tape 3. This novel incorporates the themes of personal growth, courage, and the outdoors in an interesting storyline.

*Tina Hudak, St. Bernard's School, Riverdale, MD*

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Ella Butler:**

In this 21st century, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive right now, people have to do something to make all of them survive, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a reserve your ability to survive increase then having chance to remain than other is high. For yourself who want to start reading any book, we give you this specific *A Week in the Woods* book as starter and daily reading book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

#### **Vicky Bowman:**

The publication entitled *A Week in the Woods* is the publication that recommended to you to learn. You can see the quality of the publication content that will be shown to an individual. The language that author use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The author was did a lot of study when write the book, so the information that they share for you is absolutely accurate. You also could possibly get the e-book of *A Week in the Woods* from the publisher to make you considerably more enjoy free time.

#### **Alfred Greenwell:**

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the extra time or they will get lot of stress from both way of life and work. So , when we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not really a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity do you possess when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer can unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative throughout spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is definitely *A Week in the Woods*.

#### **Doyle Swoope:**

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