

At the Bog



by Ellory Page Samuel



Illustrations by Teen Liu
Photography by Mark Leonard

→ **Reader's Note:**

These are pictures of a real bog in Andover, Massachusetts. The bog is called Pine Hole Bog.



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Mitch and his dad like to go to the bog.
There is a path of planks that brings
them to the edge of the bog.



The bog was a pond in the past. Then moss stretched out on the water to form a mat. The mat sits on the water.



Dad puts a stick in the bog. Dad and Mitch will see how much water the mat of moss rests on.



Mitch and his dad stop here and there
in the bog. There is a lot to see.



Mitch stands at the edge of the planks.
He tests the mat. Mitch steps on it. The
mat sinks down and then springs up.



A bog has a lot of plants in it. A plant can stretch up and sink in the mat of moss. “Did it shrink?” Mitch asks.



This bog plant can catch bugs for food.
An ant got up on the plant and fell in.
There is a lot of food in a bog.



It was a thrill for Mitch to see the plant trap a bug for a snack.



There are lots of bugs in the bog. A bug
is food for a big bug and for a plant.



Mitch sees a web. The web can catch bugs. The bugs must not go into the web. They will get stuck in it.



“What is that shrill sound?” Mitch asks his dad.

“It is a bird in the bog,” said his dad.



Splash! Was it a frog? Lots of frogs are in a bog. They like the water. Frogs snap up bugs for food.



Did the frog splash in the bog to get
a bug? Did it splash in the bog to get
away? It did not want to be food.



At the edge of the bog, ducks make
their nest. This patch of water is the last
bit left of the pond.



But this pond will not last. The moss will stretch on top of the water. The pond will shrink. The bog will get big.



Mitch and his dad get out of the bog.
They will go back to the bog when they
can. They like it there!



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Skill focus: three-letter blends; digraph
blends (*shr, thr*); trigraph *-tch*

New sight words: edge, food, form

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Discussion questions:

1. What do Mitch and his dad see at the bog?
2. Why are spider webs unsafe for bugs?
3. What does it mean that the frog didn't want to be food?



1 Short Vowels

2 Digraphs

3 **Consonant Blends**

3A: Stan in the Tub consonant blends (*sk, st*)

3B: For Glen consonant blends with */*

3C: Ducks consonant blends with *s*

3D: Greg and Fran consonant blends with *r*

3E: At the Bog **three-letter blends; digraph blends (*shr, thr*); trigraph *-tch***

4 Special Consonant and Welded Sounds

5 CVCe Words

6 R-controlled Vowel Sounds

7 Long Vowel Team and Special Vowel Spellings

8 Diphthongs

9 Affixes and Word Types