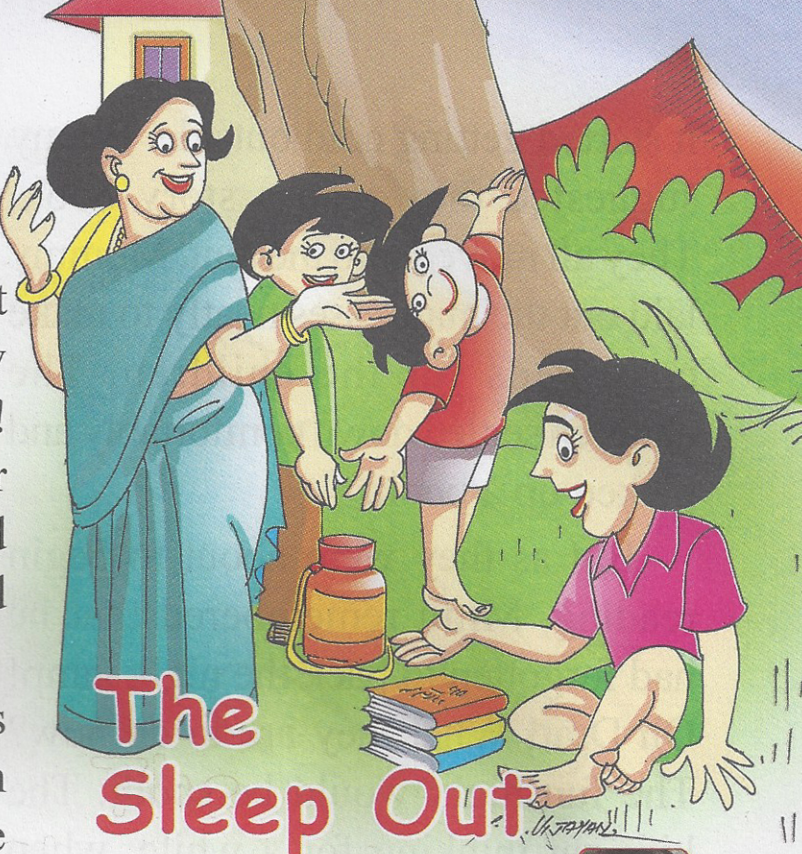


**M**ittu, Sunny and Bunny were very excited! They would be sleeping that night in a tent, all by themselves, in their backyard! Daddy got a huge tent for Mittu's birthday and Mommy said they could sleep out in it that day!

While Daddy was pitching the tent, the children rushed to their room to make preparations for sleeping out. Sunny packed the pillows and blankets. Bunny filled up the water bottles and packed some cakes. Mittu packed books and a pocket telescope. He loved watching the stars. By the time Daddy finished, the children were standing all around the tent. Daddy wished them a happy stay and went inside the house.

The children were all by themselves! It was a full moon night and the backyard was wonderfully lit by the moonlight. They ran around in the backyard for a while playing 'hide-and-seek' and 'catch-and-run.' Soon they were tired but were not ready to sleep. So they lay down on the grass and watched stars for a while. Slowly,



## The Sleep Out

Dr Rohini Chintha, Hyderabad



**Dear Parents and Teachers,**  
Read out this story to the little ones with suitable gestures and voice modulation so that they listen to you with rapt attention.

—Editor

it started getting cold outside. Bunny suggested they read a story book. They all moved into the tent. Mommy laid out the mattresses neatly to make cosy beds for the children. The children settled down comfortably and picked up a book.

But as they were about to begin reading, Mittu remembered that he had forgotten to pack the night lamp! Oh Drat! What they are to do now? The fun night would be spoilt. The kids sat thinking for a while, when Sunny suddenly remembered the fireflies in the trees near the fencing wall!

The children rushed to the trees and after jumping up and down and running after the fireflies for an hour, they managed to catch a few, which they put carefully in a perforated jar which Mommy had given them. They carried the jar to the tent and settled down again on the mattresses. But before they finished the story book, they all fell asleep and had beautiful dreams about their next sleep out.

Wouldn't you too want to do it!? ●

