

Early the next day, before Josh got out of bed, Dad phoned Ned's dad. Ned and his dad were off on a 'lads and dads' camping trip the following day, and Josh's dad thought that it might be a good idea to go with them and give Josh time to forget all about the new red school uniform. It would be good practice for next year's school camping trip, too.

When Josh heard the news, he was so excited. Before he could even ask where they were going, he ran upstairs to find all his outdoor camping clothes. He opened his drawers and pulled out his blue fleece, his warm blue walking trousers and his blue T-shirt. Then, in his wardrobe, Josh found his blue trainers and his blue jacket. He was busy packing them all into his blue rucksack when Dad came into the room.

"Don't pack your bag too soon!" said Dad. "You need to try all those clothes on first. It's a long time since we've been camping, and some of these might not fit you anymore."

Dad was right. Josh tried to squeeze into his blue jacket, but the zip got stuck. Then, as hard as he tried, he just couldn't push his feet into his blue walking boots.

Suddenly, Mum appeared at the bedroom door.

"Time to get you some proper walking gear," she said, smiling. "You have really grown, and if you are going walking in the fells, you need all the right clothes."

"**The fells!**" cried Josh. "**Wow!** Where are we going, Dad?"

"We're off to the Lake District in Cumbria and we're going to climb the Cat Bells," Dad explained.

Josh was so excited! Tomorrow he would be camping and climbing with his best friend and both their dads.

"We need to go to the outdoor shop first and get you some new clothes," said Dad. "You'll need them anyway if you're going to go on the school camping trip next year." He smiled at Mum.

Josh was soon dressed and waiting in the back of the car. As they arrived at the shop, they saw Ned and his dad pull up in their car, too.

"We need new outdoor gear!" shouted Ned's dad.

"Same here—my walking boots don't fit," called Josh as he dashed off to find his friend, leaving both dads chatting and planning the journey for the following day.



Soon, both Ned and Josh were looking at all the new things they needed for the trip. A very helpful shop assistant helped Josh try on some new walking boots. Finally, they found a pair that were the perfect fit. The shop assistant started taking them to the till.

“I just need them in a different colour, please,” Josh said politely. “I’d like them in blue, not grey.”

The shop assistant looked over to Josh’s dad. “We’ll have to send for those,” he said.

Josh’s dad shook his head. “You’ll have to have the grey ones, Josh, or we won’t be able to go walking tomorrow,” he said.

The shop assistant packed them in the bag ready to go. They were just like the ones that Ned had bought, but Josh really would have liked them to be blue.



“Now for a waterproof jacket,” said Ned’s dad. “You’ll need to choose something nice and bright so that we can see you on the fells,” he said, smiling at Josh’s dad.

Ned tried on a light green waterproof jacket, which was just the right size and his favourite colour, too. Josh looked through the rack, pulled out a blue one and quickly tried it on.

“I’ll have this one, please,” he said to the shop assistant. The shop assistant looked at Josh’s dad. The jacket dangled round Josh’s knees, stopping him from moving his legs, and the sleeves went right past his hands—almost down to the floor!

“That’s far too big for you,” laughed Josh’s dad. “You need a much smaller one.”

The shop assistant looked through all the sizes and shook his head. “This is the only one we have left in a size that fits you,” he said, lifting up a bright **RED** jacket. If Josh wanted to go on the camping trip, he would have to wear it.

Josh looked at the jacket, closed his eyes and tried it on.