

Smack Dab in the Middle of Summer!

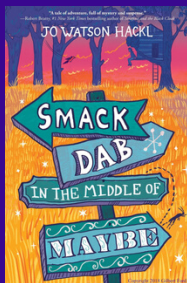
10 Things to Try Outdoors

Hang out in a Hammock. Read a book while you're there. Check out the tips in our "No Rules Reading" guide to find

Get buggy. Get eye-level with a bug. How many different things does your bug do in ten minutes?

Tour the woods after dark! Take a flashlight on a well-marked path and see what creatures are stirring at night

Ideas brought to you by
Jo Watson Hackl,
author of *Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe*



Winner, The Southern Book Prize,
an Indie Next Pick,
& an Okra Pick

"TOTALLY UNPUTDOWNABLE!"

—NYT bestselling author Carrie Ryan

Free resources for readers and educators, book club questions, a hidden object search, book trailer, outdoor challenges and an interactive map at www.JoHackl.com

Smack Dab in the Middle of Summer!

10 Things to Try Outdoors

Try telling the temperature by cricket chirps. Go outside and tune into the chirping of a single cricket. Count how many chirps the cricket makes in 14 seconds. Add 40 to that number. That should give you the approximate temperature in Fahrenheit degrees.

Build a fort. Gather up branches from nature and some materials you can recycle and get to building.

Go on a picnic. All you need is something to sit on and something to eat. June 8 is National Best Friends Day--a great excuse to get outside with a friend.

Stargaze. This summer we can see lots of sky activity including the Delta Aquariids and Perseids meteor showers. Check with your local observatory to find the best times to spot them.

Liven things up. Put a bird feeder outside your bedroom window and see who comes to visit.

Explore. Challenge your friends to an outdoor scavenger hunt. See if you can find a plant or animal whose name begins with every letter. From ants to zinnias, have some fun.

Turn a mud puddle into art. Use a stick to direct the water flow and make your own design.

