

Jake and Duke Camp Paw Mountain

by John Halas, ScreenwritersForHire.Com

based on the book, *Jake and Duke Camp Paw Mountain*

by Roger R. Strohl

Logline

When Jake and Duke embark on a camping trip to Camp Paw Mountain, little did they know what adventures lay in store.

Character Description

Jake (M) - A ten-year-old boy who enjoys spending quality time with his dad. He loves his best friend, a dog named Duke, and they are inseparable. Jake loves making friends and playing with them. He is always looking to have fun and exciting adventures.

Duke - Jake's best friend. A pure breed—a five-year-old collie with above-average intellect. He has a fine-combed reddish-brown coat and marble black eyes.

Mr. Kennel (M) - Jake's dad. He is a family-oriented man who loves to share his childhood experiences with his son. He is dedicated to raising his child to be happy and responsible in life. He always tries to see things from the happy and humorous side.

Paul Kanine (M) - Jake's buddy. A ten-year-old boy who mostly hangs out with Jake and Duke. They always go on hikes outside town.

Ranger Doberman (M) - A State Park Ranger dedicated to his job. He wants park visitors to have a wonderful time while in his

park. He loves educating people about outdoor life and preserving the environment. He is very personable.

The Breeds - A friendly camping family on their annual trip to Paw Mountain Park. They are camped close to the Kennels, and they have adventures together.

Three-act Summary

Act One

- Jake is getting ready for the holiday weekend on a fine Friday afternoon. He has just stepped out of school when his best friend, Duke, a beautiful collie, comes running toward him, wagging his tail. They both head home, happy in anticipation of what the weekend is going to bring.
- As they pass Paul Kanine's house, Jake reminisces about one of their adventures together. Paul had gone to play with a skunk covered in oil, thinking it was a black cat, and ended up getting soiled before Jake could warn him. When they approach the house, Duke begins to bark. Mr. Kennel, Jake's dad, is outside putting some items in the trunk for a camping trip planned with Jake and Duke for the weekend to Paw Mountain Park.
- Jake helps his father pack for the trip before settling for dinner prepared by his mother. After supper, Paul comes over, and Jake and Duke join him for a football game with some other friends. They play for an hour and decide to retire with the scores tied. Jake returns home and settles for the night, all the while anticipating the camping trip the following day.
- The next day, Jake, Duke, and his dad all head out for the trip to Camp Paw Mountain after breakfast. Along the way, they stop for a rest at a mountain overlook. While they are enjoying the view, an army convoy passes by, and Mr. Kennel narrates his army experiences to Jake. A couple pulls up in a van, and Duke plays with them briefly before they head out again for Paw Mountain Park.

- They drive for a while before pulling over once again, this time near a spring for a drink of freshwater. About half an hour later, they pull up to Paw Mountain Park and drive up to the park office. They enter the log cabin and meet Ranger Doberman with his pet raccoon, Rocky, who is always up to mischief. They complete the registration and head to campsite 107 to set up camp.

Act Two

- After setting up camp, Jake's dad gets supper going while Jake and Duke have a walk to the lake. Duke sniffs out a turtle and plays with it for a while before they return to the campsite to the smell of beef stew. After eating, they all head out to gather firewood. Jake leads them to spots where he had spotted some fallen trees earlier, and they gather enough wood.
- Suddenly, Mr. Kennel signals them to stand still—a rattlesnake is coiled very close to them, ready to strike. The snake springs toward a tree where a snake man catches it and puts it in a bag. Back at their campsite, their camp neighbor, Mr. Breed, comes to inform them of a group sing-along down by the beach later that evening. They have fun singing at the beach before retiring for the night.
- On getting back to their tent, Duke begins to bark and runs to an oak tree. When he stops barking, a "who-who" sound is heard. They look around and can't seem to find the source, so they decide to play a game of Old Maids. The sound continues intermittently, and Jake and his dad decide to investigate further. After searching for a while, they discover that the sound is coming from an owl high up in one of the oak tree branches.
- The next morning, Jake and his dad head out with Duke to look for Ranger Doberman. They join the ranger for a tour while he gives them a little history of the land and the Indians that lived on it before. He tells them of the trade between the Indians and the American government that gave them rights over 100 square miles of land. The ranger

invites them to join the nature hike in the afternoon to learn more, and they gladly accept the offer.

- Just as Jake and his father are about to head home, a young woman runs up to them, excited. She informs them that she just spotted a big black bear at her campsite. The ranger grabs his race starter pistol, and they all head out toward the campsite. On getting to the campsite, they see no bear, but there are apparent signs of its presence as a lot of things have been overturned. The ranger informs them to make loud noises when they next spot the bear and assemble his bear team.
- Jake and his dad head back to the camp, eat some soup, clean up the campsite, and then prepare some wood for fire later in the evening. Mr. Breed and his two children, Blackie and Susie, come up to them, showing their impressive catches from their fishing trip. Mr. Breed brings an electric eel in a bucket, and Duke gets an electric shock from going too near. Mr. Breed asks Mr. Kennel to help take the eel to the ranger and gives Susie and Blackie permission to join Jake's family on the nature walk.
- Two other families join in the nature trip as Ranger Doberman takes them around to see different landmarks at the camp. He shows Jake the old Indian ruins, and they all climb to the top, where Susie spots an eagle's nest that she gets to keep. Next, they come upon a running stream. Duke takes off suddenly, and on getting close to the waterfall, he starts barking. They try to call him, but he wouldn't stop barking.
- They follow him to find out why he is so agitated. On getting to the stream, they spot a large rock in the middle of the water with a fawn behind it, struggling against the current to climb out onto the rock. After several tries, it takes a team effort to use a branch to rescue the fawn, and it scampers into the safety of the forest. They all congratulate each other for their effort, especially Duke, for spotting the fawn.

- On their way back from the nature walk, Duke takes off and reappears with a rubber duck in his mouth as some ducks can be seen flying into the air not too far away. An angry photographer stumbles out of the forest, berating Duke and demanding that he be put on a leash. The photographer had been trying to get some shots of the ducks for days, and just when he was about to get the perfect shot, Duke came startling them and took off with one of his decoy ducks.
- The ranger tries to calm the man down, but he is upset, demanding that someone has to pay for his decoy duck, which now has holes in it from Duke's teeth. He also insists that he wants to file a complaint and that Duke is put on a leash. Duke hangs his head while the ranger loans Mr. Kennel a leash to use for the rest of the camping trip. On getting back to their camp, Duke goes under the table to brood. They are invited to a meal by the Breeds, and they go over to have some fantastic fried fish.

Act Three

- While they are snacking that night, Mr. Kennel tells a scary story—the Legend of Sleepy Hollow. Everyone is silent and listening apprehensively when a scary sound is heard close to them. A shadow appears in the woods, and they first think it is a bear. Duke begins to bark, but Mr. Breed urges everyone to remain calm. Mr. Kennel shines his flashlight at the figure, and they see an old man. The old man explains that he is Wolf, the mountain hermit. They invite him to join them, and he tells stories of his wonderful adventures before they all retire for the night.
- The next morning, the ranger comes to warn that the photographer is still angry and the bear has been spotted again, but his team is looking for it. When caught, it will be transported to an uninhabited forest area north of the park. Jake and his dad begin to pack their things as the trip is coming to an end. Blackie and Susie come to inform Jake that a professional boxer has set up a small training gym on the other side of Hound Lake and Mr. Kennel gives his permission for Jake to go with Duke and the other kids.

- After watching five rounds of sparring, the children decide to head back to their campsites. Along the way, Duke bolts out of Jake's leash and runs into the forest. The children run after him and spot him barking at the big black bear. Not far away from the bear is the photographer, his feet trapped under a rock. He yells for them to go get help. Susie runs to get help while Duke continues to distract the bear to prevent him from attacking the photographer.
- The boys start stoning the bear and yelling. Just then, the bear steps on Duke's restraint and starts attacking him. Just when it is about to swipe Duke with his paw, a shot is heard, and the bear collapses. The ranger appears behind the children, informing them that he had just used a tranquilizer gun on the bear. They all help the photographer to safety, and he becomes most grateful to Duke for spotting him.
- The photographer agrees that Duke should not be put on a leash and calls him a hero. The local news crew who have come to get footage of the boxer takes shots of Duke and his family. Duke appears in the local newspaper as a local hero.