

## **Is That an Alligator?**

My parents adopted a baby girl from China and they wanted to go get her, of course, so they asked my aunt Michelle to come and take care of me while they were away.

One day I asked her to go canoeing with me at Lettuce Lake Park, and I didn't tell her that there were alligators. If I did, I don't remember. Anyway, we got in a canoe and got in a very green, mossy, and rooty lake. There were mosquitoes flying all over the place and there were algae on top of the water, which gave the whole park quite a smell.

We got to the middle of the lake where there was a very big alligator, which was probably asleep, about ten yards away from us. I wanted to get closer to it and aunt Michelle wanted to get away.

She had her paddle on one side and I had mine on the other, so you can imagine two people in a boat spinning around and around with an alligator (by now extremely wide awake) looking at us, probably saying, "Are these people crazy?" And... in the middle of a lake, on top of all that.

*(Written by my grandson, Ian, age 12)*