

A Monster Surprise

Beneath the leafy rooftop of the woods in Little Nook
Was a very hungry rabbit, who was searching by the brook.



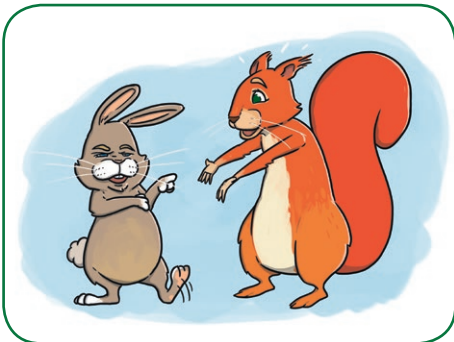
“My **flowers** have been stolen – almost every single bunch!”

Rabbit panicked, feeling sure that there was not enough for lunch.

He saw a clump of fur between some sticks upon the ground
And he thought that he might know just where the culprit might be found.



So, Rabbit marched to Squirrel's house to find his precious food
And to tell his friend that taking it was really rather rude.



“Excuse me!” shouted Rabbit, now with Squirrel in his sight.

“I was really looking forward to my marigold delight.

I know you took my flowers. Please return them right away.”
But it wasn't only Rabbit who was missing food that day.

“My **acorns** have been stolen!” Squirrel shouted with a cry.
“And the villain left a bite mark in my tree as they went by.”

The friends knew just one creature who
would nibble on a tree

And they thought that they might
know just where the culprit might
now be.



So, on they marched to Beaver's house to find their precious food
And to tell their friend that taking it was really rather rude.



"Excuse me!" shouted Squirrel, now
with Beaver up ahead.

"I was really looking forward to my
toast with acorn spread.

I know you took my acorns. Would
you kindly give them back?"

But it wasn't only Squirrel who was cross about her snack.

"My branches have been stolen!" snuffled Beaver, full of grief.

"And I'm sure I saw a pointy tusk
belonging to the thief."

The friends knew just one creature
with a tusk of any sort

And they thought that they might
know just where the culprit might be
caught.



So, on they marched to Boar's house, off to find their precious food

And to tell their friend that taking it was really rather rude.



"Excuse me!" shouted Beaver, now that Boar was in her view.

"I was really looking forward to my branch and bramble stew.

I know you took my branches and I'd like them back, unchewed!" But it wasn't only Beaver who was longing for her food.

"My berries have been stolen!" snorted Boar, wide-eyed with shock. "And the robber left some footprints leading right across that rock.



I've never seen a creature who has footprints of that kind

So I think that we should follow them to see what we can find."

The friends climbed up the rock and clambered down the other side

As they trekked to find their food with just the footprints as their guide.



They took a narrow path that formed a line between the trees...

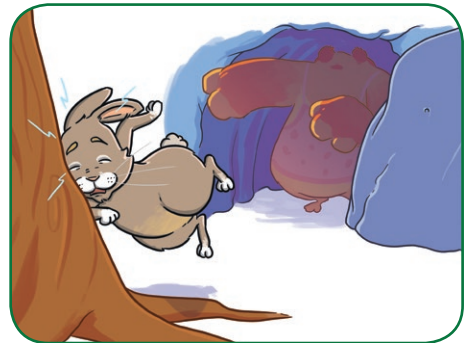
And then crawled through thorny bushes that left scratches on their knees.

They climbed some jagged rocks until their feet could take no more.

Then, they came across a cave that had a boulder for a door.

The boulder started moving and the creatures stood in fright

As a silhouette inside began to shuffle into sight.



"A monster!" Rabbit shouted as the friends all turned to flee.



In the panic, Rabbit tripped, colliding head first with a tree.

The monster's hand loomed down and as it picked him up, he shook.

There was nothing quite so scary in the whole of Little Nook!

"Oh, please say you won't eat me!" Rabbit begged with fearful eyes.

"I would never eat a rabbit!" laughed the monster with surprise.

“Well, thank you!” answered Rabbit, as he brushed the dirt away.
 And the friends were all relieved to see that Rabbit was OK.
 The monster mumbled shyly as it bent down on one knee,
 “I was hoping that you all would like to join me for some tea.”



The monster clicked its fingers and the glow-worms shined their lights

On the most amazing party full of wonderful delights.

“Our missing foods!” said Rabbit, now the monster’s plan was clear,
 And the creatures all said sorry for reacting with such fear.

“Please join me,” said the monster, as it headed for the seats.

“You can help yourself to cups of tea and lots of yummy treats.”

When Rabbit’s little tummy brimmed with marigold delight,
 And when all the toast had gone with no more acorn spread
 in sight,

When Boar was full of berries and the
 stew was at an end,

They all thanked the gentle monster...
 who was now their brand new friend.



Questions

1. Where do the characters live? Tick one.

- ☐ on a farm
- ☐ in a zoo
- ☐ in the woods

2. Who is the first animal we meet in the story? Tick one.

- ☐ Beaver
- ☐ Rabbit
- ☐ Boar

3. What do all the animals notice is missing? Tick one.

- ☐ their food
- ☐ their homes
- ☐ their friends

4. Who had been taking their things? Tick one.

- ☐ a mouse
- ☐ a man
- ☐ a monster

5. How did everyone feel at the end of the story? Tick one.

- ☐ sad
- ☐ happy
- ☐ angry

Answers

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- ☐ in a zoo
- ☒ **in the woods**

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Questions

1. What does Rabbit think has been stolen? Tick one.

- ☐ his carrots
- ☐ his lettuce
- ☐ his flowers

2. Which character is looking for their acorns? Tick one.

- ☐ Squirrel
- ☐ Beaver
- ☐ Boar

3. Draw a line to match up the words that rhyme.

lunch

food

snack

back

bunch

rude

4. Why were the animals scared of the monster?

5. Complete this sentence.

They hugged and thanked the monster, who was now
their brand new _____.

teacher

friend

pet

Answers

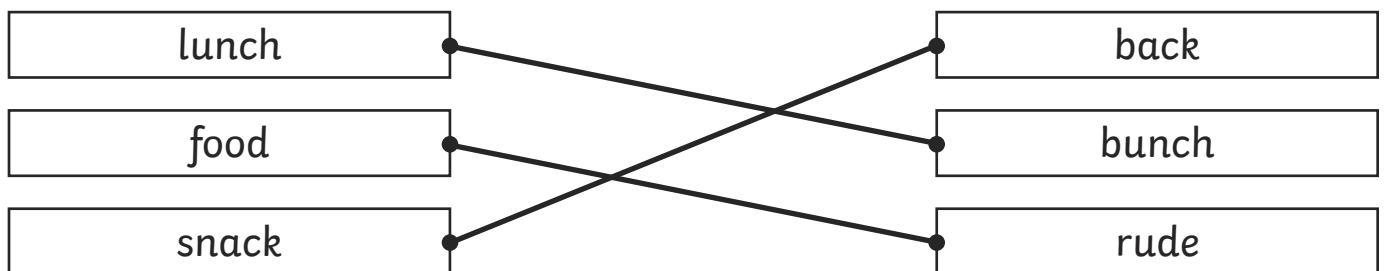
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- ☒ **Squirrel**
- ☐ Beaver
- ☐ Boar

3. Draw a line to match up the words that rhyme.



4. Why were the animals scared of the monster?

Accept answers that make sense, such as: because the monster was a stranger; the monster was much bigger than them; they thought the monster might hurt/eat them.

5. Complete this sentence.

They hugged and thanked the monster, who was now their brand new **friend**.

teacher

friend

pet

Questions

1. What did the animals think had happened to their food? Tick one.

- ☐ They thought it had been stolen.
- ☐ They thought it had been cooked.
- ☐ They thought it had been poisoned.

2. What do you think the word 'culprit' means?

3. List three pairs of rhyming words in the story.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. Put these events from the story in order by numbering them 1 to 4.
The first one has been done for you.

Beaver is looking for her branches.	
Squirrel is looking for her acorns.	
Rabbit is looking for his flowers.	1
Boar is looking for his berries.	

5. How do you think the animals felt when they first saw the monster?

6. Why do you think the monster wanted to have a tea party with the animals?

Answers

1. What did the animals think had happened to their food? Tick one.

- ☒ **They thought it had been stolen.**
☐ They thought it had been cooked.
☐ They thought it had been poisoned.

2. What do you think the word 'culprit' means?

Accept answers that refer to someone having done something wrong.

3. List three pairs of rhyming words in the story.

Accept any three from the following: Nook/brook; bunch/lunch; ground/found; food/rude; sight/delight; away/day; cry/by; tree/be; ahead/spread; back/snack; grief/thief; sort/caught; view/stew; unchewed/food; shock/rock; kind/find; side/guide; trees/knees; more/door; fright/sight; flee/tree; shook/Nook; eyes/surprise; away/OK; knee/tea; lights/delights; clear/fear; seats/treats; end/friend.

4. Put these events from the story in order by numbering them 1 to 4.
The first one has been done for you.

Beaver is looking for her branches.	3
Squirrel is looking for her acorns.	2
Rabbit is looking for his flowers.	1
Boar is looking for his berries.	4

5. How do you think the animals felt when they first saw the monster?

Accept answers that refer to the animals feeling scared and/or thinking the monster might hurt or eat them.

6. Why do you think the monster wanted to have a tea party with the animals?

Accept answers that refer to the monster being lonely and wanting to make friends.