

## Lilly's Vegetable Garden

Story By: Judie Eberhardt

Lilly planted her vegetable garden with care. She planted carrots, beans, tomatoes, beets, and lettuce. Every day Lilly went outside to water and weed her garden. However, one day she was working on her homework when she glanced out the window. She realized her fluffy carrot tops were missing, her tomatoes were gone, and her lettuce was shortened down to only a tiny little piece of green. *What happened to my vegetables?* Lilly thought to herself.

Lilly went outside and didn't see anything unusual. Her neighbor's dog, Buffy, was barking. "What's wrong Buffy?" asked Lilly. Buffy just kept barking and barking. Lilly went back in the house to finish her homework. As the night went on, Lilly's mom said, "Buffy sure is barking a lot tonight." "I wonder what is wrong with him?" asked Lilly's mom. "I don't know," said Lilly. "He was barking this afternoon too." "I think I'll go outside and take a look," said Lilly. Just as Lilly went outside she saw something run from her vegetable garden. "Skat," yelled Lilly. "Go away!" What's wrong?" asked Lilly's mom. "I chased a raccoon," said Lilly. "Now I know what happened to my vegetables!"



Lilly replaced her vegetables that were eaten by the raccoon, but not before her dad placed a cage to capture the raccoon. "We need to make sure he stays in the woods," said dad. "Once we catch him, we'll call Mr. Joseph at the Preston Animal Center, and he can release him into the woods." "That's a great idea," said Lilly. "I don't want to hurt him, but I don't want him eating our vegetables either."

The next morning was Saturday, and Lilly ran outside to see if anything was in the cage. Sure enough, a huge raccoon was sitting in the cage eating a carrot that Lilly's dad had placed in there to attract the raccoon. "Dad, dad!" yelled Lilly. "There's a big raccoon in the cage!" Dad ran outside to see the raccoon. "I just called Mr. Joseph, and he is on his way over to get him."

Mr. Joseph arrived about twenty minutes later and said he had never seen such a huge raccoon. He would be taking him to Triangle State Park to release him later that day. Lilly's dad thanked him, and that night Lilly picked fresh lettuce to have in a salad. "This is the best lettuce I've had!" said her dad. "I'm glad we found what was eating my vegetables," said Lilly. "I do hope Mr. Raccoon is adjusting well to his new home in the woods," said Lilly. "I'm sure he is," laughed dad.

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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What were some of the vegetables in Lilly's garden?
  - A. Lettuce and beans
  - B. Beets and radishes
  - C. Lettuce and cabbage
  - D. None of the above
  
2. Where was Lilly when she heard her neighbor's dog barking?
  - A. In the house
  - B. Under a tree
  - C. On the back porch
  - D. In the garage
  
3. Who is Mr. Joseph?
  - A. Lilly's neighbor
  - B. The man at the Preston Animal Center
  - C. Lilly's uncle
  - D. None of the above
  
4. How did Lilly's dad capture the raccoon?
  - A. He waited outside for him.
  - B. He set out a special raccoon trap.
  - C. He set out a cage with a carrot in it.
  - D. He put a leash on him.
  
5. What park was the raccoon going to be placed in?
  - A. Locust Park
  - B. Clear Lake Park
  - C. Triangle State Park
  - D. Rolling River Park

## Lilly's Vegetable Garden – Answer Key

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