

# Picky, Picky, Picky!

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Patty hated broccoli. She stared at the weird tree-shaped vegetable sitting next to her yucky pork chop and her boring salad. It was horrible. It looked like squirrel food. How could her mother expect her to eat it? The only thing worse than broccoli was Brussels sprouts. Those things looked like little, green, alien brains.

“GROSS!” Patty shouted, pushing her plate away.

“Patty.” Her father said her name sternly. He liked his dinner, and he hated bad table manners.

“Where are my hamburgers and fries? Why can’t I have chicken nuggets? Or how about pizza for once?” Patty whined.

“We had pizza on the weekend. During the week we need to eat healthy to balance out the junk food we have sometimes.” Mother explained.

“How about some soda with dinner, then?” Patty grumbled. “Milk is icky.”

“Patty.” Father repeated her name again. He was starting to get his irritated face. The vein in the middle of his forehead stood out when he was angry.

Patty sighed and pulled her plate back to her. She took a hesitant bite of broccoli and promptly spit it back on the plate.

“Patty! Room! Now!” Father barked at her. He’d had enough.

Scolded, she ran to the other room, slammed the door, and threw herself on her bed. She cried for a few minutes, but then a thought occurred to her. Her parents would feel sad and get her some food she actually liked if she didn’t eat anything for days. They’d feel guilty and give in to her wishes. She smiled to herself, imagining her parents feeding her ice cream whenever a tear threatened to drop from her eye.

Mom tried to get her to eat later that evening, but she refused. Patty didn’t eat breakfast the next day either. When lunch came around, she was starving, but she wouldn’t eat anything that wasn’t fried or sweet. They didn’t offer her anything special when she didn’t eat. That surprised her.

By the time dinner came around, she could hardly move. Her stomach growled loudly and she felt very weak. She was dizzy with hunger and barely had the energy to drag herself to the table. Suddenly, vegetables didn’t look so bad.

And you know what? They didn’t taste so bad either. Patty had seconds of mashed potatoes and corn that night. She went to bed with a full stomach. She still wanted pizza and chips and junk food, but she could wait until the weekend.



## **Picky, Picky, Picky!**

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

1. How does Patty feel about broccoli?
  - A. She loves it.
  - B. It is her favorite food.
  - C. She doesn't like it, but she can eat it.
  - D. She hates it.
  
2. What does Patty do that makes father angry enough to send her from the table?
  - A. She burps.
  - B. She refuses to eat.
  - C. She spits her food on the table.
  - D. None of the above
  
3. What plan does Patty make?
  - A. She decides to run away.
  - B. She decides to learn to cook her own food.
  - C. She decides to refuse to eat until they give her what she wants.
  - D. She decides to steal money and go buy the food she wants.
  
4. What kinds of food does Patty really want to eat?
  - A. organic, healthy foods
  - B. only her mom's cooking
  - C. only meat
  - D. junk food and fast food
  
5. What did Patty learn at the end of the story?
  - A. Vegetables are gross.
  - B. Broccoli is her favorite food.
  - C. If she is hungry enough, she can eat anything.
  - D. Not eating makes you happy.

## Picky, Picky, Picky! – Answer Key

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Use the information below to check the answers.

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