



Mystery Hunt

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It was a late summer day. Ricky Raccoon and his pals had nothing to do.

“I’m bored,” said Flora Skunk.

“I’m hot,” said Mitzi Mink.

“I’m bored and hot,” said Bizzie Beaver.

“Then it’s a good thing I came along!” said a familiar voice. The friends looked up to see their friend Mrs. Cardinal. She was just letting go of two pieces of paper, which came fluttering down to them. Bizzie caught one, and Flora caught the other.

“What are those?” asked Ricky.

“They’re lists of things to find on a scavenger hunt,” explained Mrs. C. “I thought it might be fun for you to hunt in teams.”

“Cool!” said Mitzi. “It can be the boys against the girls!”

“OK!” said Ricky. “We’ll win for sure!”

But Bizzie was reading the list. “Huh?” he said. “A needle? A fork? A cap and a mitten? We can’t find these things in the woods!”

“Sure you can,” said Mrs. C, “if you really look. Have fun!” She flew off.

“If Mrs. C wasn’t a cardinal,” said Ricky, “I’d say she was a cuckoo!” The pals all giggled.

“It does seem crazy,” said Mitzi. “But I guess we should get started.” So the boys went one way with their list and the girls went another.

Ricky and Bizzie walked along for a while. They looked up. They looked down. But they didn’t see any of the things on Mrs. C’s list.

Bizzie sighed, plopping down against a tree trunk to rest. “Ow!” he said suddenly. He reached underneath himself and pulled out a pine cone. “I sat on this prickly pine cone!”

Ricky’s eyes lit up. “Pine cone?” he said, looking at the paper. “Cone is on the list!”

“Oh, I was thinking of an ice cream cone,” Bizzie said with a smile.

“Me, too,” Ricky said. “But now I see Mrs. C was being tricky. C’mon, let’s see what else we can find!”

Meanwhile, Mitzi and Flora were having no luck at all. “How can we find a fork? Or a cap? Or any of these things?” asked Mitzi.



“Let’s rest a while,” said Flora. “We can sit in the big fork in that tree there.”

Mitzi’s eyes grew big. “Flora, did you hear what you just said?”

Flora looked puzzled for a second. Then she smiled. “Fork!” she exclaimed. “It’s on the list!”

“Clever Mrs. C,” said Mitzi. “Come on, we can beat the boys for sure.”

One by one, the friends discovered other items on the list: a pine “needle,” an acorn “cap,” a leaf shaped like a “mitten,” and so on. Just as it was beginning to be dusk, Ricky and Bizzie appeared.

“Hi, guys,” said Flora. “How’s your hunt going?”

“Great,” said Ricky. “We have only one more thing to find.”

“Us, too!” exclaimed Mitzi.

“Well, we’re gonna find our thing before you find your thing,” said Bizzie.

“Wanna bet?” asked Flora.

Just then, Mrs. C landed on a branch above them. “Hi, everyone,” she said.

They looked up at her, but as they did, they all began pointing and shouting.



“I see a star,” yelled Bizzie. “It’s the last thing on our list.” He and Ricky were pointing to the first star that had come out in the sky.

“We won, we won!” shouted Ricky.

But Flora and Mitzi were pointing, too. “A star!” Flora shouted.

“The last thing on our list,” Mitzi added. They were pointing at a leaf on the tree Mrs. C was sitting in. It was a maple tree with star-shaped leaves.

“You’re both right,” said Mrs. C. “So I’d say you both won.”

“This was a fun day,” said Bizzie as they headed home. “We found all the tricky things on our lists.”

Ricky yawned. “I’m ready to find one more thing,” he said.

“What’s that, Ricky?” asked Flora.

Ricky yawned again. “My bed!” he exclaimed.

