

Who Will Eat the Blackberries?

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With a nod to
One Potato by Sue Porter

Contact

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Setting: Edge of a Woodland, during dusk

At Rise: Tiny Turtle, Sally Skunk, Bernard Beaver and Roy Rabbit are all hanging out by the pond.

Puppets introduce themselves:

Hi, I'm...

Tiny Turtle

Sally Skunk

Bernard Beaver

Roy Rabbit

Ozzie Oriole

[SALLY SKUNK]

We're all friends who live at the edge of a woodland. There's lots of neat things to see around here like trees, flowers, birds, bushes.

Stage action: *Roy Rabbit notices some blackberries.*

[ROY RABBIT]

Speaking of bushes, are those blackberries at the top of that bush? I bet they would taste good. I think I'll pick some.

Stage action: *Roy Rabbit bounces off the ground to reach the blackberries, but he can't jump high enough.*

[ROY RABBIT]

Shucks. I can't jump high enough to reach them.

[TINY TURTLE]

Did I hear someone say blackberries?! Blackberries are my favorite! I want some! Get out of my way.

Stage action: *Tiny Turtle stretches his arms, legs and neck, but he's not tall enough to reach the blackberries.*

[TINY TURTLE]

Shoot. My arms aren't long enough to reach them.

[SALLY SKUNK]

Why should you two be the only ones to eat blackberries! I want some too! Move it!

Stage action: Sally Skunk tries climbing the bush, but falls before reaching the blackberries.

[SALLY SKUNK]

Ouch! I guess my long claws are good for digging but not for climbing.

[BERNARD BEAVER]

You guys are going about this all wrong, you have to bring the blackberries to you!

Stage action: Bernard Beaver starts to gnaw the wood at the base of the bush, but the thorns hurt his mouth.

[BERNARD BEAVER]

Ouch! My big teeth are good for gnawing, but those thorns can hurt!

[ROY RABBIT]

Wait a minute. I saw them first, so I should get them!

[TINY TURTLE]

But we all want some. Why don't we have a competition for them? That would be the *fair* thing to do.

[BERNARD BEAVER]

Okay, whoever can hold their breath the longest underwater gets the blackberries!

Stage action: Bernard jumps into the pond.

[ROY RABBIT]

Hey! That's not fair! Sally and I can't swim!

Stage action: Bernard pops his head up.

[BERNARD BEAVER]

Then I guess you're out!

[SALLY SKUNK]

Hey! Wait! That's not fair! I have an idea. How about whoever can chase everybody away the quickest?

Stage action: *Sally turns her back to the other animals and begins to lift her tail.*

[ALL OTHER ANIMALS]

No! Stop! No way!

[ROY RABBIT]

I've got it! Whoever can hop the farthest should get the berries. Everybody line up!

[TINY TURTLE]

Not fair! Nor fair! My legs aren't built for jumping. I'll never get this shell off the ground!

[ROY RABBIT]

Then I guess it's no berries for you!

[TINY TURTLE]

Wait! Wait! I've got it. How about who can hide the best?

Stage action: *Tiny quickly pulls his head, arms, and legs into his shell.*

[SALLY SKUNK]

Talk about not fair! You're the only one with a shell.

[BERNARD BEAVER]

Well, this is getting us nowhere and I'm getting hungry.

Stage action: *Play audio-Baltimore Oriole call*

[OZZIE ORIOLE]

Did I hear someone say they're hungry?

Stage action: *The animals look up towards the blackberry bush. Ozzie oriole is perched in the bush happily eating the berries.*

[ALL OTHER ANIMALS]

Hey! What's going on? Those are our berries!

[OZZIE ORIOLE]

Well, while you guys were busy arguing over who should get the berries I got hungry. Did you ever think of sharing the berries? That might be the fair thing to do.

[ROY RABBIT]

Sharing?

[TINY TURTLE]

No, I guess we didn't.

[BERNARD BEAVER]

Yeah, we were so busy thinking about what we were good at, we didn't stop to think about anyone else.

[SALLY SKUNK]

I guess we need to remember to be fair.

[OZZIE ORIOLE]

Oh, don't be too hard on yourselves. We all need some practice at being fair from time to time. By the way, these berries are delicious! Come closer and I'll toss a few down to you.

[ALL OTHER ANIMALS]

Thanks! Sure feels good to treat people fairly. Let's try to remember that!

Stage action: *The animals all enjoy the berries.*