

A Dog Is a Plant's Best Friend



Read to Learn

Preview — Flip through the book. Look for words that are new, and share them with a partner.

1. **pollen** A light, sticky powder that flowers need to make seeds.

Skim — Look at the pictures. What is happening in this story?

Can you tell the beginning, middle, and end?

Read — Read to learn about how animals help plants make new plants.

GO



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Alyssa went outside to call her dog, Billy. "Where is that dog?" she wondered. "I bet he is getting into more trouble in the woods."

Billy liked exploring the woods. But he always got dirty and then brought dirt into the house. Alyssa would have to clean up after him.



Soon, Alyssa saw Billy running toward her. It did not look like he was covered in dirt! Alyssa knew Billy liked digging up things like plants in the woods. She thought that maybe he liked the smells.





Alyssa's mom came outside. She took one look at the dog and laughed. "Oh, honey. Those are just burrs," she said.

"Burrs?" Alyssa asked, looking puzzled.

"Yes, burrs," her mom said. "They are just seeds. Here, let me get his brush and remove them."

"Have you been up to something?" Alyssa said to Billy. Then she looked at him more closely. She saw funny little things all over his body. She called to her mom. "Mom! Mom! Come look at Billy! What are these funny things on him?"



Back in the house, Alyssa sighed and said,
"Billy is always getting into something."

"Don't get mad at Billy," her mom said.
"He was helping nature."

"Helping nature?" Alyssa asked.

"Yes, helping nature. He was helping
spread seeds. He doesn't know he is doing it,
but he is," her mom explained.

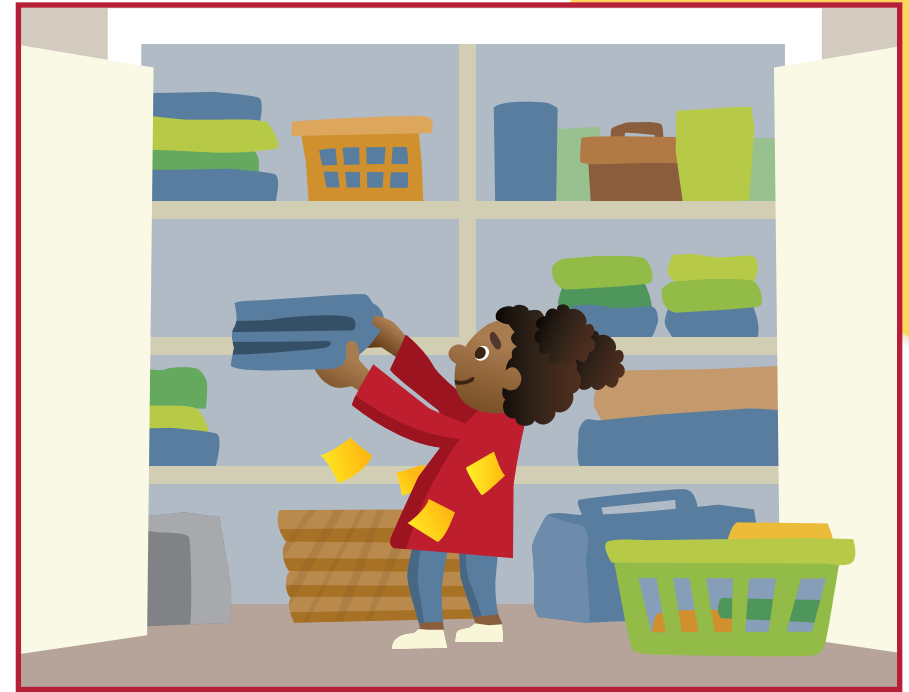


"You need to get to your chores now," her
mom continued. "But I think I know a way to
help you understand this."

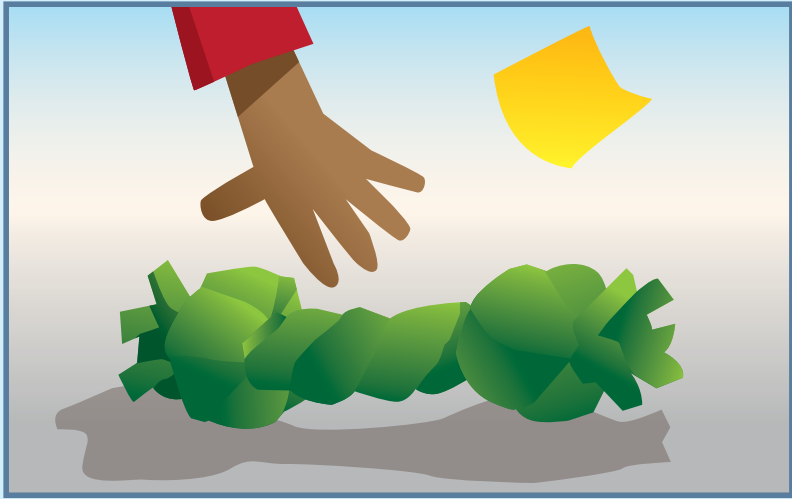
To Alyssa's surprise, her mom began
placing sticky notes on her. She put some on
Alyssa's arms. She put a few on her back.
She put some on her stomach.

"Now. Go do your chores," her mom said.
"You will understand it soon."

As Alyssa carried the laundry up the stairs, one of the notes fell off her arm. She watched it float to the ground. She grinned, thinking, "I wonder if this is what Mom expected would happen."



Two more notes fell off Alyssa's arms while she was putting towels into the closet. "This is so silly," she thought. "I am just leaving a trail of notes in the house. I don't know what this has to do with the things on Billy. That dog is just a messy puppy!" she giggled to herself.



Next, Alyssa had to pick up Billy's dog toys. Again, more notes fell off. Now Alyssa was getting a bit upset.

"I am trying to clean up a mess," she grumbled, "but now I am making a mess!" She hoped her mom would explain this to her.

Alyssa then swept the carpet. She knew another note would fall. When it did, she watched how air from an open window almost blew it outside. She remembered how each sticky note fell differently. Each floated in a different way. She wondered if this was what her mom wanted her to see.





"Okay, Mom, I have done my chores,"
Alyssa said as she walked into the kitchen.
"What's for lunch?"

"Hold on!" her mom replied. "What did
you learn as you did your chores?"

"The notes fell off me as I moved
around," Alyssa replied. "But I'm still not
sure what this has to do with Billy."

"Let's go outside, and I can explain why
I had you do this," her mom said.

“Those notes fell off in different places,” said Alyssa’s mom. “It is just like when wind, water, and animals move seeds to different places. Billy can carry the burrs because they have hooks that stick to him. The burrs fall off when he walks. Birds also spread seeds. They eat seeds, but sometimes they drop seeds as they fly. New plants can grow in different places.”

Mom continued, “Animals spreading seeds is not the only way that plants grow in new places. See those bees? Pollen sticks to a bee’s body. Plants need pollen to make new seeds. Bees move pollen from flower to flower because flowers cannot move the pollen. The bees do it for them. Think you get it now?”



"I do!" said Alyssa. "I was spreading sticky notes just like Billy was spreading seeds. If these were seeds, we would have sticky note plants everywhere!" She giggled. "I'm ready to eat lunch now!"

"Hold it there!" her mom laughed. "You have one more chore."

"What is that?" Alyssa asked, confused.

"Pick up all those sticky note seeds you left around the house!" said her mom.



Science Stretch

Walk around your school. How are animals helping plants?

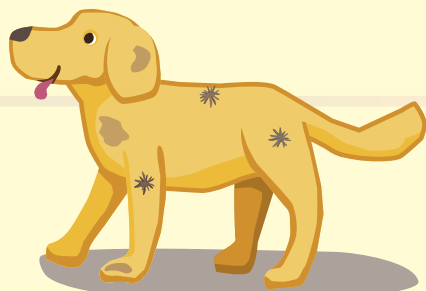
Make a model of a bird beak. Test which types of seeds it can pick up and move best.

Look at the picture of the burr. Why is it important that the burr have hooks?



Animals help plants. Alyssa helped her mom around the house. Name some ways you can help living things.

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