

Costume Change

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It was a beautiful, summer day. Ricky Raccoon was watering his flower garden. He loved his flowers. "They're all so pretty," he said happily to himself.

Suddenly he saw something that made him gasp. A leaf on one of his flowers had tiny bites taken out of it! He looked at another leaf. More bite marks! "Hey!" Ricky exclaimed. "Someone's been eating my flowers!"

"Gosh, someone sure was hungry," Ricky said. Then he saw something moving near another leaf. "And now I know who that someone is!" he exclaimed. A beautiful striped caterpillar was munching away on the leaf. Ricky watched in amazement as the leaf became smaller and smaller right before his eyes. He was so busy watching that he didn't hear his friends come up behind him.



"What are you doing, Ricky?" asked Flora Skunk. Ricky jumped in surprise. Then he turned to see Flora, Bizzie Beaver, and Mitzi Mink.

"Hi, guys," he said. "Meet my new little friend. My hungry little friend, that is!" He pointed to the caterpillar.

"Oh, he's so pretty!" Mitzi said.

"He sure is," agreed Bizzie. "But, Ricky, he's eating up your flowers!"

"I know," said Ricky. "But I don't mind. The little fellow has to eat, after all."

As the caterpillar ate, Ricky said, "I think I'll name him Munchie because he eats so much."

Ricky and his pals watched as Munchie gobbled up a leaf. Then suddenly Flora asked, "Hey, have any of you figured out what to be for the costume party?"

"I'm still deciding," said Mitzi.

"Me, too," said Flora. "What about you, Ricky?"

Ricky was watching Munchie. "I just got an idea," he said with a grin.

Soon the others went home to work on their costumes. Ricky went into his house. He searched through his closet. Then he pulled out a blanket with black, yellow, and white stripes. "Perfect!" he said.



