

# The Raccoon and the Colorful Leaves

It was a nice fall day. Nutty the raccoon was waking up from a nice little nap in his hollow tree. He decided to go for a walk and visit his friends. Some of them were Swan, Duck, the skunk family, Squirrel, the tree bees, fox, and Bear. They were very nice to him and they had a lot of fun!



Nutty jumped out of his tree and started walking. After he had been walking a while, he seen the skunk family walking along the path. In their family, there was a daddy skunk, a mommy skunk, and a baby skunk.



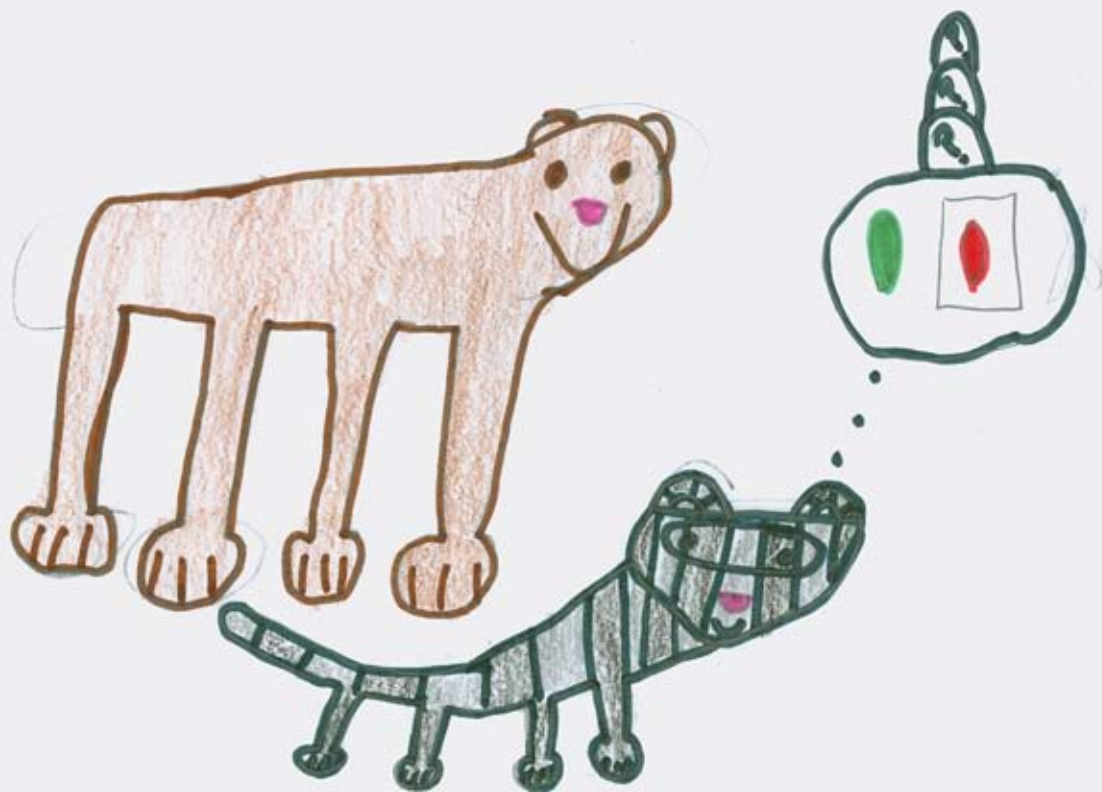
"How are you today, Nutty?" asked father skunk. "I'm fine. How are you?" asked Nutty. "We are just fine. Have you been past the lake today?" asked mother skunk. "No. Why?" "Because there are really colorful leaves on the ground by the lake. They are so beautiful!" said the baby skunk. "Why is there colorful leaves on the ground?" asked Nutty. Nutty was a very young raccoon and has never been alive in the fall so he would not even know about it. "We don't know. Ask the tree bees. Maybe they would know." said the mother skunk. "Okay. Thanks! Good bye!" said Nutty.



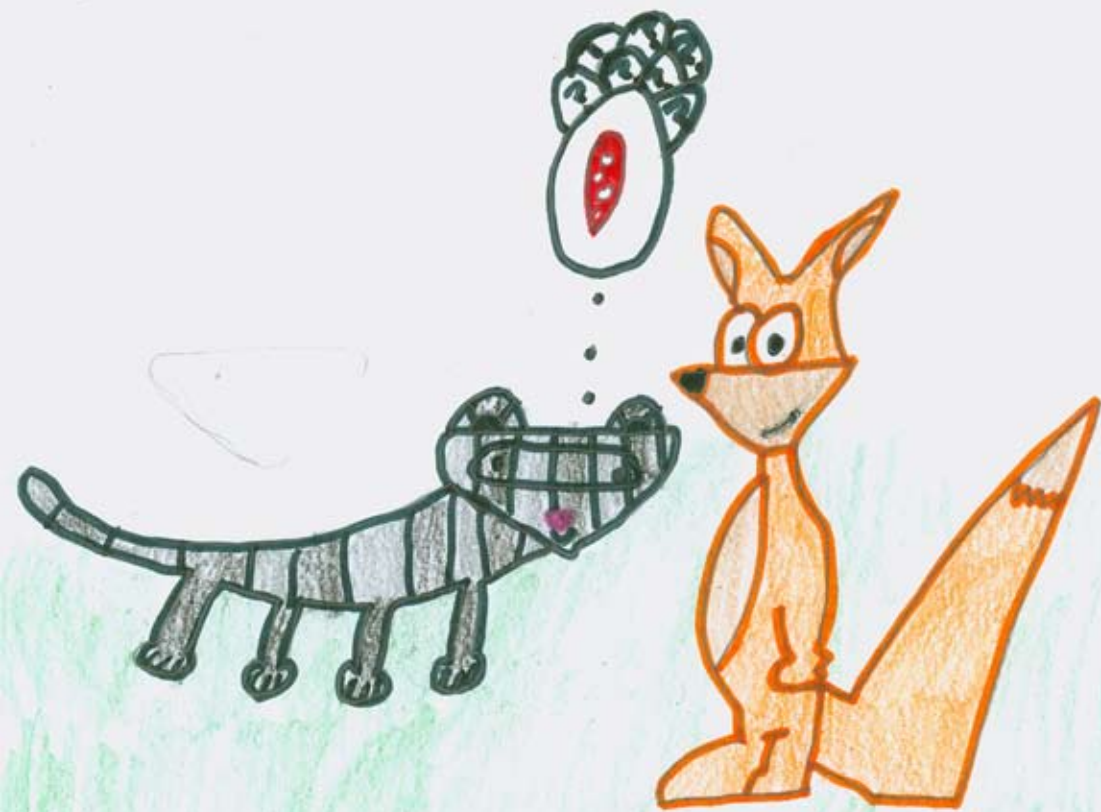
When Nutty got to the bees tree, he climbed it and yelled into the hive "ARE YOU GUYS HOME?" "Yeah. We're home! We'll be right out!" said the tree bees. He climbed back down the tree and waited. When they came out Nutty said "Hi guys! Have you guys flew past the lake lately?" "No. Why?" "The skunk family told me that there are colorful leaves on the ground. Why would that be?" asked Nutty. "We don't know. We just built our hive here. Please don't ask us! Maybe its because somebody painted them and pulled them off the tree to make them look pretty!" said the tree bees. "I don't know if thats right. Maybe I will go and ask bear. He might know. Bye!"



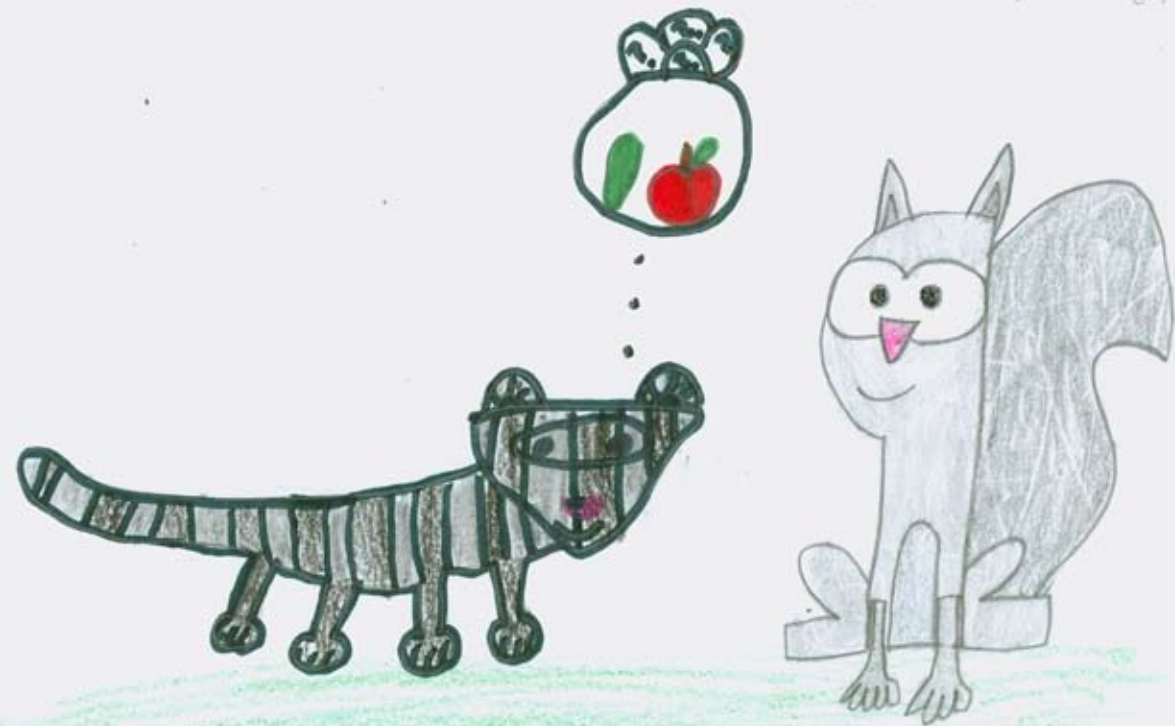
When Nutty got to Bears den he knocked and said "ARE YOU HOME, BEAR?" Bear walked out. "How are you, Nutty? What do you need?" "Have you been past the lake recently?" "No, Why?" asked bear. "The skunk family told me there were colorful leaves on the ground, do you know why?" "I've got no clue! I think maybe because the people who come through on the paths took the green leaves and put paper leaves in replacement." "The tree bee's told me that maybe somebody painted them and pulled them off. I didn't know for sure and I also don't know about this one either. I am going to ask fox and see if he knows! See you later!"



Nutty found Fox running in the grass. "Hi Fox! Have you been past the lake lately? The skunk family told me that there are colorful leaves on the ground. Why would that be?" "I don't know. I think that when hunters come through, they shoot them and when they get shot so much, they turn a color and fall." "I don't know. The tree bees told me it was because somebody painted them and pulled them off. Bear told me that people take green leaves in return for paper leaves. Maybe I should go ask squirrel what she thinks! Good bye!"



Squirrel was eating lunch when Nitty got there. "Hi Squirrel! Have you ran by the lake lately? The skunk family told me that there are colorful leaves were by the lake! The tree bee's told me that it was because someone painted them and put them on the ground. Bear said that people took the green leaves for paper ones and Fox told me that hunters shoot through them so much they change color and fall. Do you have any idea at all?" "Maybe because the animals rubbed berries and fruit on them to make them turn colors." said Squirrel. "I don't know. Maybe I'll ask Swan. She might know! Good-bye!"



When Nutty got to the lake he saw the leaves and Swan. "Swan, why is there colorful leaves on the ground? The skunk family told me they were here and the tree bees told me somebody painted them. Bear told me people took the green ones for paper ones. Fox told me the hunters shoot through them and they change colors and fall. Squirrel told me that animals nibbles and fruit on them. I don't think those are true. Do you have a idea? Yes, yes I do. The leaves fall and die during the season of Autumn and grow back in the spring. Thank you, thank you very much!" "I think that might just be right! I knew I could count on you! Thank-you!" Nutty the raccoon went back to his hollow tree and went to sleep. He had a **LONG** day!

