



Read-Aloud Where Eli Went

2



Bea had plenty of stuffed animals, but her favorite was a porcupine named Eli.

One night, when it was time for bed, Bea looked for Eli. He always slept beside her. His soft quills comforted her. But Eli wasn't on the bed.

Ask: "What do you notice? What do you wonder?"

3



Had he fallen under the bed? She kneeled down to look.

4



Suddenly, Bea wasn't in her room anymore.

She was in a forest full of trees!

A beam of sunlight shone down on a winding path. Bea followed it. "Eli, are you there?" she called out.

5



She came to a clearing. Someone was there, but it wasn't Eli. It was Skunk, sewing a large cloth sack.

"Hello. Have you seen a porcupine?" Bea asked Skunk.

"Why, yes! The sack I was using to gather berries tore, and he gave me this needle to fix it."

Ask: "What do you notice? What do you wonder?"

6



Bea saw the needle was a porcupine quill like the ones on Eli's back. "Where did the helpful porcupine go?" Bea asked.

Skunk pointed towards a river in the distance. "He went that way!"

Bea thanked Skunk and followed the path. She hoped Eli hadn't gone far.

7



Soon, Bea came to a riverbank.

By the water's edge was Beaver, using a pointed tool to pluck something from the mud.

"Hello!" said Bea, approaching. "Have you seen a porcupine?"

"I have! He noticed me struggling to pick up trash and kindly offered me this tool. It makes collecting the garbage much easier."

8



Bea smiled as she noticed that the tool was Eli's quill!

"Where did the kind porcupine go?" asked Bea.

"He went that way!" Beaver pointed towards a field of flowers.

Bea thanked Beaver and hurried off. She had to catch up to Eli!

9



Bea arrived at a small clearing where two frogs were tossing a button back and forth.

"Hello!" Bea said, waving to them. "Have you seen a porcupine?"

10



“Oh, yes. He was so clever!” said one of the frogs. “He saw us playing our game, and gave us these sticks so we could keep score.”

“Now we know who’s winning—me!” said the other frog.

Bea looked closely at the sticks in the ground. They were Eli’s quills!

“Where did the clever porcupine go?” she asked.

“Over the hill,” the two frogs said, pointing ahead.

Bea took a deep breath. She thanked them both, and off she went.

 **Ask:** “What do you notice? What do you wonder?”

11



She climbed up a hill lined with tall trees, wondering how much longer it would take to find Eli.

At the top Bird was perched on a branch, twisting together grass and twigs.

“Hello! Have you seen a porcupine?” Bea asked.

“I have,” said Bird. “When I ran out of sticks to build my nest, he gave me this grass to weave in.”

12



Bea peered into the nest, and what she saw wasn’t grass at all—it was more of Eli’s quills.

Sighing, Bea asked, “Where did he go? I’ve been looking for him all day.”

Bird pointed to a swarm of fireflies. “Follow them! They’ll show you the way.”

Bea thanked Bird and ran towards the glowing bugs.

She followed their bright cloud down a path that seemed to go on forever.

13



Suddenly, Bea wasn’t in the forest anymore. She was under her bed, holding her very best friend.

“Eli!” Bea exclaimed, sitting up. She wiped the sleep from her eyes.

“Finally, I’ve found you!”

She carried him up to bed and tucked him in beside her.

“I missed you!” Bea said, and squeezed Eli tight. He had fewer quills. But he had never felt softer.

 **Ask:** “What do you notice? What do you wonder?”