Raccoon Rex

by Ruth Donnelly

I walk by night, in darkness.
I sneak without a sound.
I overturn the garbage can.
Oh! What a treat I’ve found!

I grab the picnic sandwiches.
(I haven’t yet been seen.)
I take my bounty to the brook,
And wash it squeaky clean.

I creep up to the campers’ tent
And snatch a hot dog bun.
The campers yell. They scream and shout.
But I’m just having fun!

A mask of fur around my eyes,
A smile upon my face,
My paws can open garbage cans.
I move with stealth and grace.

I steal from people’s garden plots,
From porches and from decks.
Yes, I’m a fearless bandit--
And my name is Raccoon Rex!
Raccoon Rex
by Ruth Donnelly

1. According to the poem, a raccoon is much like a....
   a. gardener  b. carpenter
   c. thief     d. chef

2. How do the campers feel in this poem?
   a. disappointed  b. exhausted
   c. satisfied     d. angry

3. The seventh line of the poem says, “I take my bounty to the brook.”
   What does this mean?
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________

4. The sixteenth line of the poem says, “I move with stealth and grace.”
   Define the word stealth. Use a dictionary if you need help.
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________

Challenge: Look up the word raccoons in an encyclopedia.
            Find out what raccoons eat in the wild.

Super Teacher Worksheets - www.superteacherworksheets.com
Re-read “Raccoon Rex” and complete the vocabulary table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line Number</th>
<th>Word from the Poem</th>
<th>Synonym</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Line 9</td>
<td>creep</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line 3</td>
<td>flip</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>snatch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Line 19</td>
<td>outlaw</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fearless</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Line 8</td>
<td>shining</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line 7</td>
<td>creek</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How might campers protect their food from being stolen by Raccoon Rex? On the lines below, write a paragraph to describe your idea. Then, on a separate sheet of white paper, draw a detailed picture to illustrate your idea.

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ANSWER KEY

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1. According to the poem, a raccoon is much like a....  c
   a. gardener  b. carpenter
   c. thief  d. chef

2. How do the campers feel in this poem?  d
   a. disappointed  b. exhausted
   c. satisfied  d. angry

3. The seventh line of the poem says, “I take my bounty to the brook.”
   What does this mean?

   The raccoon takes the sandwiches (food) to the creek.

4. The sixteenth line of the poem says, “I move with stealth and grace.”
   Define the word stealth. Use a dictionary if you need help.

   Stealth means to move around without being noticed.

Challenge: How might campers protect their food from raccoons?
   Write your answer on the back, or on a separate sheet of paper.

   Answers will vary.
Re-read “Raccoon Rex” and complete the vocabulary table.

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