

Lily's Local Picnic



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Lily woke up especially early one sunny morning. She smiled at the birds tweeting loudly outside her window. It was the summer holidays and her mind drifted to thoughts of adventure, but her best friend had gone on holiday so she had no one to play with.



She went into the kitchen where her Dad was preparing breakfast.

“What shall I do today Dad?” asked Lily.

“Hmmm, let me see. You could draw a picture or maybe invent a new game. You could even go for a nice long walk.”

Lily was lost in thought, staring at the egg on her plate. It had a little fluffy feather stuck to the side.

“Where does this egg come from Dad?” asked Lily

“It comes from the farm down the road where they keep chickens.”





This gave Lily an idea. She could make a picnic, and see what other food she could gather from her local area. Now that would be an exciting adventure! Dad agreed that it would be a wonderful way to spend a sunny day.

“What do I need for my picnic?” asked Lily, thinking out loud.





“On a hot day like this I always enjoy a fresh salad!” said dad. “You could pick up some lettuce and tomatoes from Alice down the road.”

Lily thought this was a great idea! She ate up her breakfast as quickly as she could and they were soon strolling down the road on their way to the farm.



When they got there they found Alice the gardener watering her plants. Lily asked, shyly “I am making a picnic. Please can I buy some lettuce and tomatoes from you?” “Of course” said Alice, “but would you like to have a look around first?”

Alice was growing all sorts of interesting vegetables. She explained that all you need is some seeds, soil, sun, water, and a bit of care and attention! They picked the salad as they walked and even took some edible flowers which Lily found very unusual!

Alice gave her a little packet of flower seeds so that she could grow her own at home.



“Hmmm, what else do I need for my picnic?” said Lily.
“A basket to collect things in would be a good place to start” said Alice. “My friend Will makes baskets, shall I take you to see him?”

“Yes please” said Lily.



Dad had jobs to do back at home so he decided to leave them to it. But before he left he gave Lily some pocket money, which she put in her little purse.

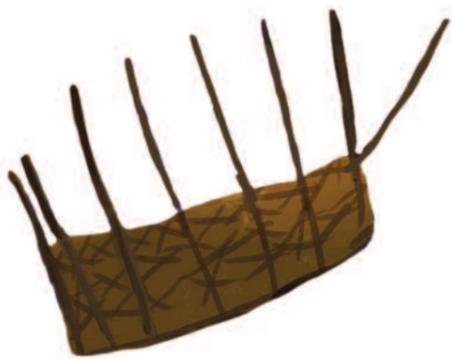
Lily and Alice set off together in the bright sunshine.



They arrived at the edge of the woods where Will was sat working. He greeted them cheerfully “Hello Alice, who’s your new friend?”

Lily smiled back “I am Lily and I’m making a picnic”

“Great idea!” said Will. “Now let me guess, you’ll need a basket for your picnic?”



“Yes please”, said Lily

“You can help me finish this one – it’s nearly done!”
said Will.

He showed her how to weave the bendy sticks of willow, and pointed out the little clearing in the woods where more willow grew.

The basket was soon complete and Lily put her salad inside.



“Hmmm, what else do I need for my picnic?”
asked Lily.

“How about some tasty fresh bread?” offered Will.

“My friend Sara bakes the best bread around.

Would you like to meet her?”

“Yes please” said Lily.



They found snoozy Susan taking a nap outside the bakery. She awoke with a start. “Oh, hello there! You caught me having a nap after an early morning of baking. I get up at two o’clock in the morning to start making my bread!”





They were met with a wonderful aroma of freshly baked bread as they stepped inside.

“Here we go. Nothing but flour, yeast, seeds and a touch of water and salt goes into this bread! Would you like some?”

“Yes please” said Lily. “I am making a picnic.” Susan gave her some rolls for her basket and they all tried a piece fresh from this morning’s batch. It was delicious and soft!



“Hmmm, what else do I need for my picnic?” asked Lily.
“I always enjoy cheese with my bread” suggested Susan.
“My friend Carlos makes it, would you like me to introduce you?”
“Yes please” said Lily.





They found Carlos in the kitchen, dancing to a song on the radio as he stirred a big vat of white liquid.

“Greetings, travellers, welcome to my kitchen! Would you like to try some cheese?”

“Yes please”, said Lily, with a big grin!

“My cheese is made from organic milk. We keep our own cows so we can make sure they’re happy and healthy”





“It tastes great!” said Lily, as she took a second piece. “Can I buy some?”

“Of course you can” he said, and surprised Lily by juggling two packs of cheese, before putting them into the basket.



“Great, I think this picnic basket is nearly full. I wonder what’s missing?” said Lily, thinking out loud.

“Carlos looked at the basket thoughtfully. You need some dessert”, he suggested. “My friend Dominique makes the sweetest honey. I could give you some yoghurt to go with it.”

“Sounds perfect!” said Lily, feeling her tummy start to rumble.





Dominique was dressed strangely with a big net over his face. As they arrived he took it off and greeted them. “Hello Carlos, hello everyone! How nice to have visitors. I’ve just been harvesting my honey, would you like to see the bees?” Dominique let Lily peer carefully inside one of the hives. “The bees do most of the hard work. I just have to collect the honey when it’s ready” he explained. “And the best thing is, the bees help all these lovely flowers to grow!”





He went inside the house and came out with a couple of jars of honey. “You can have these for free, your dad helped me to fix my boiler last week!” Lily thanked him and put them in the basket.



Lily looked at the basket, bursting with food.
“I think I have enough for my picnic now”, she said.
“I shall have it in the park!”

When they arrived at the park Lily hesitated for a moment.
Who would she invite to join her picnic? It’s not much fun
to have a picnic on your own.



She looked at the group of new friends gathered around her. 'Would you like to share my picnic with me?' she asked. And they all said 'YES!'

And that's exactly what they did!



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Tel/Fax: 015394 31602
Email: office@cdec.org.uk

ISBN ~~978-0-9576426-5-2~~

Printed by Badger Press Ltd. www.badgerpress.co.uk

CDEC 2015