

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## A Tale of Two Critters

I'm what you'd call a "green thumb." I love planting flowers and vegetables. My new house is a gardener's dream. The yard is flat and gets lots of sunshine.

As soon as I moved in, I dug some garden beds. In one, I planted tons of tulips. In another, I planted a garden to attract butterflies.

In spring, I was thrilled when the tulips began peeking out of the soil. But then I discovered that every tulip bud had been neatly munched off. In the mud nearby, I could see deer tracks.

I was upset, but by then my other plants were growing. Then, on my daily garden walk, my heart sank. Almost every plant had been eaten. Only the fuzzy leaves of black-eyed Susans remained.

Just now, I saw a deer munching on my azalea bushes! I was so angry, I banged on the glass. This is getting ridiculous!

I've lived in this neck of the woods since I was just a young fawn. It was once full of plants and trees. But now this place is full of houses. It's not the same, but a deer's gotta do what a deer's gotta do. I've gotten used to it.

One spring night, I was searching for a bite to eat when I smelled something good. There, lined up before me, were some yummy-looking plants. I carefully bit off the top of each one. Mmm!

The next night, I went back to the same spot. None of the yummy plants had grown back. But then something else caught my eye: A patch of tender green shoots. I feasted on the juicy plants. I avoided the yucky, fuzzy plants.

In the morning, I found some delicious shrubs. I was enjoying my find when—BAM—I heard a loud noise. I was so scared that I ran away! What's all the fuss about?



**Think of a situation where a person and an animal might have different points of view. Then write your own "A Tale of Two Critters" on the back.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions About "A Tale of Two Critters"

1. In the story, what is the problem from the person's point of view? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What is the problem from the deer's point of view? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Why does the deer avoid eating one of the plants? How might the gardener use that information in the future? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Pretend that you are the deer in the story. What would you say to the gardener to explain your actions? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Think of a time when you were angry at someone. Write what the other person might have been thinking or feeling at the time. \_\_\_\_\_

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