

## Grade 3 Narrative

### A Backyard Story

Joe awoke early because he was excited about this day. He had been waiting all week for this day to come. He had images in his mind of all the animals he would see on a nature walk with his family. He quickly dressed and raced down the stairs. He could not believe what he saw outside. Joe was greeted by dark clouds and rain showers. As he looked out the kitchen window, he began to think that today was going to be a boring day.

Joe joined his parents who were sitting at the table. "It's not fair!" he said. "I wanted to go on the nature walk. Now I am stuck inside."

"Joe, I understand you are upset," Mom said, "but let's eat breakfast and then decide what we will do today."

Joe poured cereal into a bowl and splashed some milk on top. He saw a bright red bird eating seeds at the bird feeder outside.

"What kind of bird is that?" asked Joe.

"That's a cardinal. The bright red ones are males," said Dad.

Joe ate breakfast while watching the cardinal. When he was finished eating, he stood in front of the window. The cardinal flew away. Joe was sorry to see the bird leave.

Joe's parents had an idea after seeing that Joe was fascinated by the cardinal. "We do not have to go on a nature walk to see animals. We can see animals from our window. Let's spend the morning seeing how many different animals we can identify in our backyard," Mom suggested to Joe.

Joe liked the idea. Joe found the perfect spot to see the whole backyard. He saw that the cardinal was at the feeder again with another bird. The two birds ate seeds from the bird feeder. They drank some water from the birdbath. Afterward, the birds flew to another part of the yard to nest in the bushes.

Dad spotted another bird in the yard. A gray sparrow flew across the green grass and disappeared through a tiny hole in the birdhouse attached to the fence. Dad had built that house when he installed the fence. He was happy to know that the birdhouse was inhabited.

Next, a black crow flew down and grabbed a piece of fruit from the compost bin. The crow flew up to the top of the trees and shared it with other crows. Then several of the crows flew to the compost bin and feasted on the fruit.

Mom's gaze rested on a deer near the trees in the backyard. The deer had found some seeds and corn to nibble on. Mom was surprised to see a deer so close to their house.

"I can't believe all these animals live in our backyard," said Joe. He found some paper and began to draw the animals he had seen. Then he wrote a story about them. He titled it "A Backyard Story."

## Grade 3 Informational

### Tooth Time

The day you were born, you didn't have any teeth. Babies don't need them because they drink all of their food! But as you grew, so did your teeth. At about 6 months of age, the first two teeth erupt. They are called baby teeth or primary teeth. After that, more teeth slowly begin to fill in, usually in pairs, until all twenty of them have come in. These allow you to eat food and even help you talk.

Older children get a whole other set of teeth. The first set of teeth will begin to fall out, one by one. Larger teeth will take their place. You will get a whole set of these new teeth called permanent teeth. There are thirty-two of them in all. You will have this set of teeth for the rest of your life. So, make sure you take good care of them!

How should you take care of your teeth? You should brush them two times a day, in the morning and before bedtime, and floss daily. This keeps a sticky film from building up. This film is a home for germs that can eat away at the tooth. In time, this can make a hole called a cavity. The film can also cause problems with your gums. Your gums are the part of your mouth that holds your teeth in place. Flossing removes tiny trapped food particles between the teeth that a toothbrush can't reach.

Healthy teeth and gums are important for many reasons. Teeth bite, tear, and chew food. Teeth also help you speak clearly. Many letters of the alphabet cannot be pronounced without teeth. Keeping your teeth clean and healthy will help you have a sparkling smile, making you look and feel your best!