

Eli's Mission

By ReadWorks

Eli looked up at the sky. It was bright blue, his favorite color. As he lay on his back, prickly green grass scratched at his bare arms and legs. He covered his eyes with his hand; the sun was too bright. But the cool breeze kept him at the perfect temperature. That's what he loved about summers in upstate New York—the weather was just right for playing outside. He and his family drove to the small city of Ithaca every summer to visit his mom's family.

Just as Eli was starting to fall asleep in the backyard, his stomach growled. *Time for dinner*, he thought. So he rolled over onto his stomach and pushed himself up on his legs. He started to walk back to the house. But, all of a sudden, he noticed something move in the corner of his eye. It was near the woods by the backyard. Then he heard some tall grass rustle. So he went to check what it was. When he got closer, the mystery object stopped moving. He tiptoed over until he could see something laying in the grass—it was a baby deer!

Even though Eli wasn't standing very close to the animal, he found it strange that the fawn didn't try running away. He ran into the house and told his mother what he had found. "Well, we should check to see if the fawn is injured. If not, we shouldn't do anything because its mother will come back and take care of it," she told Eli. So the two of them walked back outside to the baby animal. Eli's mother walked very slowly and eventually got close enough to look at the fawn.

Eli watched his mother frown as she looked at the baby deer. She walked back to Eli. "I think its back leg is injured," she said. "But we'll wait for a few hours and see if the fawn's mother comes back for it. If we do anything now, we might scare it and hurt it more." Eli wanted to help the baby right then, but he knew his mother was right. They went back into

the house and ate dinner. They both kept checking the clock. They wanted to make sure the injured fawn was okay.

Before the sun set, the two walked back outside to where the fawn was laying earlier. It was still there. "Alright, I think we need to call the wildlife rescue so that they can come pick the fawn up," Eli's mother said. She pulled her phone out of her pocket and called the rescue. As she spoke to a wildlife rescue representative, Eli walked toward the fawn, making sure not to make any noise. He looked at the white spots across the baby's back. It was still awake, but couldn't move. Its leg was too injured. Eli wished that they could bring the baby deer into their home. "Come on, Eli!" his mother called out. "The rescue will be here soon."

Twenty minutes later, a big pick-up truck drove into their driveway. On the side of the truck, Eli read "Wild Things Sanctuary" in big, red lettering. A man climbed out of the truck and walked over to where the two were standing and introduced himself as Greg. Eli's mom guided him to the fawn. Greg put on a pair of gloves and gently picked up the fawn. He slowly took the deer to the truck and placed it in the back. "We'll be able to take care of it!" Greg told Eli and his mother. He thanked them and then hopped back into the truck and drove away. Eli's mother patted Eli on the back and smiled at him. "You just helped save that baby's life!"

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What does Eli find lying in the grass?

2. Eli's mom thinks the baby deer's leg is injured. How does she react to this problem?

3. Eli and his mother are eager to help the injured baby deer. What sentences from the text support this conclusion?

4. Why doesn't the fawn run away when Eli stands close to it?

5. What is the main idea of this story?

6. Read the sentences and answer the question.

"Eli walked toward the fawn, making sure not to make any noise. He looked at the white spots across the baby's back. It was still awake, but couldn't move. Its leg was too injured."

What does the word "injured" mean as used in this text?

7. What word or phrase best completes the sentence?

Eli wants to help the baby deer right away, ____ Eli's mother says they should wait to see if the baby deer's mother comes back to take care of it.

8. Who does Eli's mother call?

9. What does Eli do after he discovers the baby deer near the woods by the backyard?

10. Read these sentences from the story.

"Eli's mother patted Eli on the back and smiled at him. 'You just helped save that baby's life!'"

How did Eli help save the baby deer's life?
