

## **Billy's Birthday Surprise**

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Grade Level 1st

Billy rubbed his eyes awake and stood up from his bed. Today was his sixth birthday and he couldn't be happier. He would spend it at school with the rest of his classmates and teacher, Mrs. Nye.

Billy quickly brushed his teeth and gets dressed into his striped blue shirt and black sweatpants. He picked up his backpack, rushed out his room and down the stairs.

“Billy! Did you make your bed?”  
His mom shouted from the kitchen.

“No because it’s my birthday!” he  
grinned as he walked into the  
kitchen to get his breakfast

“That is not acceptable Billy!”  
She scolded.

“I’ll do it later.” He said taking a  
spoonful of cereal into his mouth.

Mrs. Johnson only shook her  
head and started to read her  
magazine.

**10 Minutes Later**

Billy walked into class and was shocked. Where were his classmates and teacher, Mrs. Nye?

“A note,” Billy buzzed.

The note read, “Down by the creek is where you’ll find the next big clue that leads you to your birthday surprise!”

Billy shrugged and continued to walk out of the school to find his way to the creek behind the school building. Things were odd today considering that there was no one in his first grade class.

As Billy neared the creek he saw a path of Hydrilla.

“I remember this! Mrs. Nye taught us about this.” Billy said. “She said that the Hydrilla can damage some power plants and other water control structure

He decided to follow the trail to the pond behind the school. He saw a tree trunk with a note on it.

“Another note!” Billy exclaimed.

The note said “The Mute Swan is near, use what you know, find it's home to get the next note.”

“But Mrs. Nye said they are aggressive towards humans and kill off native wildlife.” Billy said frightened.

Billy nervously walked towards the nest.

As he walked he realized the Mute Swan was fake.

“What’s up with all these notes?” Billy pondered.

“Better watch your step, the Northern Snakehead is ahead” The note read.

“Oh yeah! I remember that the Northern Snakehead can tolerate a

wide range of oxygen levels so it can live away from water,” Billy said as he began walking away from the Northern Snakeheads.

Billy sees another note on the trunk of the tree ahead.

“Go back to class it’s time for your birthday bash!” It said on the bright note.

Billy jumped with excitement and ran out of the woods and back into the school property. He ran back into the school and into his classroom. His jaw dropped.

“SURPRISE!” the class yelled,  
confetti in the air.

**The End!**