

# Gecko Gets Growing

by Liana Mahoney

Liam wanted a pet gecko for his birthday. He had been asking for one for months.

"You will have to take care of it," Liam's mother said.

"I will take good care of it, Mom," Liam promised.

On his birthday, Liam picked out a baby gecko at the pet store. It had a fat

"His name is C

"Clyde is very and some things to

At home, there Where would Liam p the family's dog would light. He couldn't go

Liam looked a to be his favorite thing had to keep his toy k on the top of his dresser.

"You won't be able to see him well up there," his mother said. "You will have to stand on a stool just to reach the top of the cage. Are you sure you want to put it there?"

"Yes," said Liam. He wasn't really sure. But he couldn't get rid of his toys. And there wasn't any other place to put the tank.

Liam took care of his gecko. He gave Clyde water every day and fed him fresh



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g glass tank for Clyde

l around Liam's room.

He needed to be where

place with lots of med crowded already.

things. Well, they used

at all lately. But still, he

e. It would have to go

crickets. But it wasn't easy with the tank being up so high on top of the dresser.

One day, Liam stepped up on the stool to look in the tank. Liam's heart sank. Clyde's color was different. He was pale, and even his spots looked faded. Clyde looked sick, but it was hard to see him well. Liam needed to take him out of the tank. He asked his mom to help him get the tank down.

Liam took Clyde out of the tank. He held him gently and looked at him up close. Then he smiled. Clyde wasn't sick. He was quite healthy indeed! Clyde was shedding his skin!

Liam knew what to do. He misted the inside of the tank with water. He gently scrubbed off bits of gecko skin until it was clean. Clyde looked much more handsome than before. Liam smiled.

Liam sighed. He was happy. His mother helped him get Clyde's tank could sit on the time.

"Liam," his mother said.

"I want to be a gecko. I have a room full of toys. Besides, I have a shelf for you."

Mom nodded.

"Yes. It will be okay," Liam said. He looked at Clyde and his fresh, spotted skin. "I have new favorite things now."

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Name : \_\_\_\_\_

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1) Describe how Clyde looked when it was brought.

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2) What would be a good spot to keep Clyde?

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3) Liam took good \_\_\_\_\_ from the text.

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4) How did Liam know \_\_\_\_\_'s skin?

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5) Why do you think Liam finally got rid of his toy box?

- a) He wanted to put his toys into a cardboard box.
- b) He wanted to take better care of Clyde, and he had lost interest in the toys.
- c) He wanted to give the toys away.

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