

## **Adventure Club**

"Hurry up, Sara, or you'll miss the bus!" Sara's mom yelled down the hall.

"I'm ready, Mom," replied Sara grumpily. She stomped down the hallway towards the kitchen.

"I'm going to work late tonight so I want you to go to the Adventure Club today after- school," said Mom.

"Mom, that's for babies! Please, don't make me go there!" Sara whined. "It's not fair! All of my other friends just hang out in the neighborhood and play after school."

"And get in trouble," Mom added. "I need to know that you're safe and not getting into any trouble when I'm not around. And it's not that bad at the Adventure Club. Your friend Jessica goes there, and her mom says they play all kinds of fun games and they're always doing exciting art projects. Besides, you don't have a choice. With this new job, I don't get done with work until 4:30 and there won't be anyone to watch you at home. Just walk to the program with Jessica after school; I'll pick you up as soon as I can." Mom put Sara's lunch in her backpack and added, "There's no time to argue about it now because the bus is here." She kissed Sara on the forehead.

Sara slammed the door on her way out. Then she stomped all the way to the bus stop. "I know I'm not going to have fun at the Adventure Club," she grumbled as she climbed on the bus.

When the last bell rang at the end of the school day, Sara met Jessica in front of the school. Jessica kept telling Sara about all of her friends there. Sara tried to seem interested, but secretly she kept thinking about how much more fun she could have if she could go home like the rest of her friends. She thought about pretending she forgot something at school, but before she could say anything, they were there.

Jessica helped Sara find a safe spot for her backpack and coat. "You don't want to leave them out in the hall where nobody is watching," she said. Just then, a tall man with glasses and brown hair came up to the girls.

"Hi, Mr. Marks!" exclaimed Jessica. Sara could tell her friend liked the man. He did seem pretty nice.

After the man told Jessica he was glad to see her again, he turned to Sara and said, "You must be Sara. Welcome! I'll show you around."

They walked into a spacious room. "This is our art area," said Mr. Marks. Sara saw five tables set up in the middle of the room. At one table, there was an enormous pile of clay, and four kids were using the clay to make animals. At another table, two students sat

using beads and string to make friendship bands for each other. Sara tried to pretend she wasn't interested in what was going on, but she couldn't help moving closer to the table with the beads.

She thought to herself, "I'll bet my friend Jon would like one of those." She almost asked if she could join in, but then she remembered that she really didn't want to be there. She decided not to say anything.

Mr. Marks introduced her to the two students at the table. The first student, Jesse, was a boy Sara recognized from recess as being in the second grade. She had never talked to him before. Jesse showed her how he was stringing beads to make a bracelet for his mother. First, he spelled her name with colored letter beads. Then he chose bright red and black beads to add. Sara thought the beads were cool. They seemed to reflect the light, but you could still see through them. She really wanted to make a bracelet, but she did not want to admit that her mom might have been right. Instead, she touched the blue and black beads gently and then stepped back from the table. Jesse looked at her and seemed to be thinking something. Then Sara saw him nod his head. It was almost as though he knew what she was thinking.

He turned to her and said, "Maybe you want to wait until the next time you come to make a bracelet. You can do that if you want."

Sara smiled at Jesse in relief. He understood!

Just then, she heard some noise coming from the next room. It almost sounded like yelling. Mr. Marks saw Sara looking towards the door and said, "You look like you might like to go to the gym."

Sara looked confused for a moment, but Mr. Marks led her across the hall and opened a big door.

Sara peeked into the gym. She saw nine other kids playing kickball. Sara loved kickball! When a girl behind home plate begged her to play, she just could not say no. The girl told Sara she could kick next. Suddenly, Sara forgot that she had decided she would hate the Adventure Club. She started to play kickball and forgot that she had been mad at her mom for making her come. Just then, she scored!

Sara's teammates cheered. A boy on her team came up to her and gave her a high five. The other team finally got the ball out of the bleachers. The next boy that was up kicked the ball and ran. A girl near second base caught the ball. That meant the boy was 'out'. He walked slowly back to home plate. Sara was surprised that her teammates still cheered for him. One boy said, "Good kick. You'll do better next time!"

Sara decided she would be nice, too. It seemed like everyone at the Adventure Club was kind to each other. She told the boy, "Good try!"

Sara was having so much fun at the Adventure Club that she didn't realize what time it was when her mom came to pick her up. She was sad that she couldn't finish the game.

Sara said goodbye to Jesse and Mr. Marks. Tomorrow if she saw Jesse on the playground, she would say hi to him. She was excited at how many new friends she had made. She told her mom about the run she had made in kickball. Her mom said, "I'm very proud of you!"

As Sara and Mom drove home, Sara felt really, really happy. She wondered whether she could convince any of her other friends to join the Adventure Club. She remembered how bored they always were after school. Usually they just watched television or sat at the playground. The Adventure Club was by far more fun than she normally had with her friends.

When they pulled into the driveway, Sara's mom asked her if she was still mad because she had to go to the Adventure Club. Sara didn't want to sound too excited. She said, "No, I guess it was all right." But when her mom asked if she wanted to go back, Sara could not help herself. She smiled a huge grin and said, "If I have to."

Her mom gave her a huge hug and laughed.

**1. Why couldn't Sara's mom take her home after school?**

- A. She had a new job.
- B. She had to work late.
- C. She had to get her car fixed.

**2. What showed that Mr. Marks was waiting for Sara at the Club?**

- A. He took her around to the tables.
- B. He introduced her to other children.
- C. He knew her name when he met her.

**3. Where did Sara first begin to show an interest in the Club?**

- A. At the gym.
- B. In the art room.
- C. On the ball field.

**4. Why didn't Sara want to go to the Adventure Club?**

- A. She thought she wouldn't know anyone at the Adventure Club.
- B. She thought the children who went there were too young for her.
- C. She thought she was old enough to stay home and take care of herself.

**5. What did Sara's mom say to try to make Sara feel better about going to the Adventure Club?**

- A. That Jessica's mom said the Club was a fun and exciting place.
- B. That there was no time to argue because the bus was there.
- C. That she could play with Jessica every day after school.

**6. Why did Jesse probably tell Sara she could make a bracelet next time?**

- A. There weren't enough of the colored letter beads left for Sara to make a bracelet.
- B. He didn't want to teach her because he was too busy making a bead bracelet.
- C. He knew Sara was having a problem admitting that she wanted to have fun.

**7. What was Sara like before she went to the Adventure Club?**

- A. She would try to like the Club but knew that she wouldn't.
- B. She decided that she was going to hate the Adventure Club.
- C. She felt better when she knew her friend was going to be there.

**8. How did Mr. Marks treat Sara?**

- A. He was kind and tried to make Sara feel welcome.
- B. He watched her to make sure she didn't get into trouble.
- C. He explained to Sara how the Club worked and then left.

**9. What was Sara's mother like?**

- A. She cared about her work first and Sara second.
- B. She didn't care how Sara felt about going to the Club.
- C. She cared about Sara and wanted the best for Sara.

- 10. What was a problem for Sara at the table when Jesse was stringing beads?**
- A. She wanted to have fun but didn't want to admit that her mom was right.
  - B. She wanted to string beads but was afraid to ask Jesse to show her.
  - C. She couldn't figure out if she was right or if her mother was right.
- 11. What was Sara thinking about doing just before they arrived at the Club?**
- A. Say that she had to go back because she forgot something at school.
  - B. Say that she wasn't feeling well and needed to go back home.
  - C. Tell Jessica that they would have a lot more fun if they played at home.
- 12. What was this story mainly about?**
- A. The kids you can meet and the fun things you can do at an after school club.
  - B. How hard it would be for working mothers if there wasn't an after school club.
  - C. A girl who changes the way she feels about going to an after school club.
- 13. What was Mr. Marks probably thinking when he saw Sara looking toward the gym?**
- A. Sara can't be helped if she is just going to stand around.
  - B. Getting into a team game is just what Sara needs.
  - C. Kickball is a good sport for Sara but not until she changes.
- 14. What made Sara forget that she hated the Adventure Club?**
- A. She started to play kickball.
  - B. She made a score playing kickball.
  - C. Sara's teammates cheered for her.
- 15. What was Sara thinking about on the way home from the Adventure Club?**
- A. How she would go back to the club after school the next day if she really had to.
  - B. How she was still mad at her mom but glad that she went to the club anyway.
  - C. How she might be able to get other children from school to join the club.
- 16. What made Sara feel like being nice to the other children?**
- A. When her teammates cheered her for making a score.
  - B. When she realized that everyone at the Club was kind.
  - C. When she got attention from one of the boys playing kickball.

**17. What was Sara's biggest problem at the Club?**

- A. Trying not to show how angry she was.
- B. Trying not to show that she was having fun.
- C. Trying not to show how she felt about her mom.

**18. What did Sara's mom think would happen if Sara played with kids in the neighborhood after school?**

- A. Sara would miss the fun at the club.
- B. Sara would stay out too late.
- C. Sara would get into trouble.

**19. What will Sara probably do the next time her mom has to work late?**

- A. Ask if she can go to the Adventure Club after school.
- B. Ask if she can stay home and play with her friends.
- C. Call Jessica to see if she is going to be at the Club.

**20. What showed that Sara was mad when she left for school?**

- A. She didn't want to get on the bus to go to school.
- B. She said that her mother wasn't being fair.
- C. She slammed doors and stomped around.