

Tim's Donation to the Youth Club

Tim had been wanting a new baseball glove for a long time. One day, he decided to ask his parents to buy him one.

His dad said, "There's nothing wrong with the glove you have now."

Mom explained, "Maybe we'll buy you a new one in a couple years when you're older."

Tim decided to ask his grandparents to buy him a new glove. Grandma told him that he should earn the money himself. Grandpa nodded his agreement, saying, "When I was your age, I worked to buy myself a bicycle. It would be good for you to earn the money on your own."

Tim was determined to get a new baseball glove, but he didn't know what kind of job a nine year old could do. He decided to ask Mr. Potter at the grocery store if he could have a job there. Mr. Potter told him, "Sorry, but it's against the law for me to hire someone as young as you to work here."

Tim felt annoyed because he didn't like to be called 'young'. He was also frustrated because he was afraid he wouldn't be able to earn the money he needed to buy the baseball glove. Mr. Potter seemed to understand how Tim was feeling because he said, "I can't hire you to work at the grocery store, but I'll pay you to clean out my attic. It's full of old junk that I don't want. A new youth club is going to open at the community center. Some people are having a fundraiser, and you can take the stuff down there to donate. Do you want to do that?"

"That sounds like something I could do, but what do you mean by a youth club?" asked Tim.

"It's a place for kids to go after school and on the weekends where they can play games and do fun activities," explained Mr. Potter.

Tim agreed to clean out the attic, so Mr. Potter gave Tim directions to his house and said, "Come over tomorrow morning at 8:00."

"Okay," said Tim.

Tim was excited to realize that he would finally get a new baseball glove! He decided to go to the sports store and pick out which one to buy. His favorite was made of soft black leather with red stitching. Tim couldn't wait until he earned enough money to buy the glove. He went home and told his parents what he was going to do. Tim's Dad said, "I'm glad to see you showing such initiative. Tell you what I'll do, I'll pay you to wash my car."

Tim smiled, thinking that he would have the glove even sooner than he had dared to

hope. He hurried to get a bucket and some soap. Dad gave Tim a sponge and got the hose ready. Tim started by soaking the car with the hose. Then, he scrubbed the car with the sponge and soapy water. Finally, Tim rinsed the car off with more water from the hose. He thought he was done, but then his father came out and asked him to dry the car with some towels. Tim didn't want to dry off the car because he was ready to be done, but he did it anyway. He was determined to do a good job so he could earn that soft black glove with the red stitching.

That night, Tim was tired and went in the house to rest and watch TV. He decided to go to bed early because he was so tired from washing the car. As he lay in bed, he found himself thinking that maybe he should not have agreed to clean out the grocery store manager's attic. Working was hard and made him tired! But Tim knew he could not change his mind now that he had agreed to clean out the attic. Besides, he really wanted that black baseball glove.

The next day, Tim showed up at Mr. Potter's house. He thought about how all his other friends would still be sleeping because it was summer break. Sighing, Tim rang the doorbell.

Mr. Potter opened the door with a smile and said, "Good morning, Tim. I'm glad you didn't change your mind about coming to clean out my attic."

"No way. I'm going to use the money I earn to buy a new baseball glove!" replied Tim.

"That's good to hear. Come on, and I'll show you the attic," said Mr. Potter.

Tim followed Mr. Potter upstairs to the attic. Mr. Potter had been telling the truth when he said his attic needed cleaning. There was barely room to walk.

Mr. Potter showed Tim a huge pile of junk and four large empty boxes. He said, "I want you to sort through this stuff and throw away anything that is not usable. You can put everything else into these boxes to take to the community center. If you have any questions, I'll be downstairs. Come get me when you're done. I'll help you load everything into my car. Then we'll drop the boxes off at the community center."

Mr. Potter went downstairs, and Tim started working. He pulled a box of junk out of the pile. The box was dusty, and the objects inside were even dustier. Tim began to sort the items into different piles. Some things obviously needed to be thrown away, while others Tim wasn't sure about. For instance, Tim knew he could throw away a pile of broken plastic hangers, but he couldn't tell whether he should throw away an old perfume bottle that was missing half its label. He decided someone might want to buy the perfume bottle. If no one did, then someone else could throw it away.

After an hour, Tim was almost done sorting through the stuff. All four of the boxes were full. He spotted some old uniforms and hats. He thought they would make good dress-

up clothes for the kids at the community center. He decided to set these clothes aside so he could tell Mr. Potter his idea.

Tim went downstairs and told Mr. Potter he was done. As they walked upstairs to get the boxes, Tim told Mr. Potter his idea to use the old uniforms as dress up clothes. Mr. Potter thought that was a great idea. Mr. Potter and Tim carried the boxes out to the car. They drove to the community center.

Tim was eager to see the new youth club. He thought that maybe he would try to go there with his friends sometime to see if it was fun or not. He showed the uniforms to the man at the community center. The man said the uniforms would be a great donation. He said they would try to sell everything else from Mr. Potter's attic at a sale to raise money to buy toys for the kids. After Mr. Potter and Tim dropped off the boxes, Mr. Potter paid Tim for the work. Tim was so excited he could hardly talk! He finally had enough money to buy the baseball glove!

Tim ran down to the sports store to buy his new baseball glove. He realized he had just enough money left over to buy two new baseballs too. He knew that he had a good baseball at home, so he didn't buy one for himself. He thought about how much fun it would be to play baseball at the new youth club.

1. How did Tim's parents feel about buying Tim a new baseball glove?

- A. They didn't have the money to buy Tim the glove he wanted.
- B. They thought Tim wasn't old enough to get a new baseball glove.
- C. They didn't think there was anything wrong with the glove he had.

2. What showed that Mr. Potter wanted to help Tim when he wouldn't hire Tim at the grocery store?

- A. He told Tim he would find something for him to do for money.
- B. He offered Tim another job that he could start right away.
- C. He knew that young boys need to have new baseball gloves.

3. What was the first job that Tim did to earn money?

- A. Clean a car.
- B. Clean an attic.
- C. Sell old clothes.

- 4. What showed that Tim was thinking about more than just cleaning and packing?**
- A. All the time he was working he kept thinking about his baseball glove.
 - B. He sorted items into different piles so he could decide what to box.
 - C. He thought about giving the old uniforms to the youth club.
- 5. How did Mr. Potter know that Tim would stick to their work deal?**
- A. Tim was very disappointed that he couldn't work for Mr. Potter at the grocery store.
 - B. Tim said there was no way he wouldn't work because he wanted the baseball glove.
 - C. Tim showed up on time and only complained a little about his friends not having to work.
- 6. What was the main problem in the story?**
- A. Tim needed to make money to buy a new baseball glove.
 - B. Tim thought his parents should buy him the baseball glove.
 - C. Tim didn't like most of the jobs he had to do to earn money.
- 7. What was Tim like?**
- A. He was a hard worker, knew what he wanted, and did what he agreed to do.
 - B. He knew what he wanted, but he didn't want to work hard enough to get it.
 - C. He worked hard, but he didn't like keeping his end of what he agreed to.
- 8. What did Tim think about when he first got to Mr. Potter's house?**
- A. It was summer break and he should be sleeping in, not working.
 - B. He made a big mistake when he said he would take the job.
 - C. It was summer break and his friends would still be sleeping.
- 9. What did Tim do right after he got the job from Mr. Potter?**
- A. He told his parents he had found a job.
 - B. He went to the store to pick out a glove.
 - C. He got money from his dad to buy the glove.

10. What was Mr. Potter like?

- A. He was a businessman but liked to help others, including Tim.
- B. He wanted others to work harder than he did after he hired them.
- C. He was so completely into his business that he didn't help others much.

11. Why wouldn't Mr. Potter hire Tim to work in his grocery store?

- A. He had another job that he wanted Tim to do.
- B. He didn't think Tim was old enough to handle the job.
- C. It was against the law to hire someone as young as Tim.

12. How did the story end?

- A. Tim finally got his new baseball glove.
- B. Tim found a new place to play baseball.
- C. Tim earned more money than he expected.

13. What feelings almost kept Tim from getting what he wanted?

- A. The work was so hard it wasn't worth it.
- B. He was being asked to do more than was fair.
- C. He didn't make a very good deal with Mr. Potter.

14. What was the youth center going to do with what Mr. Potter gave them?

- A. Have a big sale and sell what they could to pay for the club.
- B. Keep the uniforms for the kids and sell the rest to buy toys.
- C. Sell everything they could and give the rest away to families in need.

15. What made Tim think about changing his mind about working for Mr. Potter?

- A. His friends didn't have to get up early.
- B. He didn't get enough money for the jobs.
- C. Working was hard, and it made him tired.

16. What problem did Tim have when he washed his dad's car?

- A. He didn't get enough money for the job.
- B. He was tired and wanted to quit.
- C. He didn't want to finish the job.

- 17. What was the biggest sign that Tim had a lot of work to do to clean Mr. Potter's attic?**
- A. There was barely room to walk around the junk.
 - B. There was a pile of junk and four empty boxes.
 - C. Everything in the attic was covered with dust.
- 18. What showed that Mr. Potter understood young boys like Tim?**
- A. He knew that Tim would do any job to be able to buy the glove.
 - B. He was glad that Tim hadn't changed his mind about the job.
 - C. He thought the job was going to be too hard for Tim to complete.
- 19. What was this story mostly about?**
- A. How young boys feel about the importance of playing baseball.
 - B. A boy making decisions about how to get something he really wants.
 - C. A boy doing jobs he didn't like so that he could buy a new baseball glove.
- 20. Why did Tim buy two new baseballs when he had a good one at home?**
- A. He wanted to give the baseballs to kids at school who didn't have any money.
 - B. He thought he could give them to his friends so they would like him better.
 - C. He was planning to take them to the youth center and play ball there.