

# The Secret Surprise

By: Deborah Lynn

It was lunchtime and Bonnie and Ruth sat together like they always did at school. Ruth and Bonnie were best friends and best friends always sat together for lunch, right? They shared Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches and they shared cupcakes, they shared almost everything. But today things were different. Bonnie looked sad, and Ruth did not know why.



“Why are you sad today, Bonnie?” Ruth asked.

“Because my daddy lost his job yesterday,” she said. “And we may have to move. My mom and dad are very unhappy and I am scared. What is going to happen to us?”

Bonnie’s news made Ruth very sad too. What would school be like without Bonnie? What could she do to help her friend? When Ruth went home she told her mom the bad news.

“What can I do to help?” she asked.

“I’m not sure, Ruth,” said her mother sadly.

Ruth thought and thought. She thought while she ate supper and she thought while she did homework; she even thought when she brushed her teeth before going to bed.

“What can I do?” she wondered.

The next day was Saturday and Ruth woke up very early. She dressed and ate a quick breakfast, then went to find her friends. They all decided to work together to help Bonnie. They pulled weeds, played with babies, raked leaves and walked dogs. They even put on a Talent show in Ruth’s backyard. All the grown-ups paid one dollar to watch the children sing and dance and do magic tricks. On Sunday, Ruth asked her Sunday School class to pray for Bonnie and her family and after church the children counted their money. They had made three hundred dollars! Ruth’s mom took them to the grocery store and they bought food, soap, paper towels, and all kinds of things that a person might need. They even bought cookies and candy for Bonnie and her little brother.

When they left the store they went to Bonnie’s house and each of the children quietly carried a bag to the door; they rang the doorbell and ran, giggling all the way. They had so much fun with their secret surprise! They knew it would make Bonnie very happy.

Ruth felt happy too, because she had helped her friend. She knew it wasn’t much, but maybe it did not need to be. All she needed to do was to show her friend that she cared. I think Bonnie got the message, don’t you?

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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Why was Bonnie sad?
  - A. Because she couldn't go out for recess.
  - B. Because she thought Ruth was mad at her.
  - C. Because her daddy lost his job.
  - D. Because she missed the school bus.
  
2. Why did Ruth get up early on Saturday?
  - A. She had to do her chores.
  - B. She wanted to watch TV.
  - C. She needed to feed her dog.
  - D. She went to find her friends.
  
3. What did Ruth and her friends do on Saturday?
  - A. They pulled weeds, played with babies, raked leaves and walked dogs.
  - B. They played baseball.
  - C. They did homework.
  - D. They watched TV.
  
4. How much money did Ruth and her friends make?
  - A. They made three hundred dollars.
  - B. They did not make any money.
  - C. They made five dollars.
  - D. They made fifty cents.
  
5. What was the Secret Surprise?
  - A. They had a surprise birthday party.
  - B. They bought groceries and left it on the porch and ran away.
  - C. They got all their homework done.
  - D. They cooked supper.

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## ANSWER KEY

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