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# Earning Money My Own Way

by Jane Cregg



illustrated by Gary Krejca





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At last, the summer had arrived! Andy was on vacation from school until September. There was going to be a concert in town in July, and his favorite band was playing. Andy didn't want to miss the chance to see them perform.



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Andy couldn't think of anyone who might loan him the money. Then he thought about gifts. *That won't work*, he thought. *My birthday is four months away.*

Finally, Andy tried to think of ways he could work for the money. He decided to ask his big sister, Liz, for advice.



Andy's parents agreed to take him to the concert if he saved half the money for his ticket. *How can I save the money I need?* Andy wondered.

Then he thought of three ways to get it. He could work for it. He could borrow it. Or, if he were lucky, he might be given some money as a gift!





Andy knocked on Liz's bedroom door. "Hi, Sis," he said. "I'm asking Mom and Dad to take me to the concert next month. But the ticket prices are sky high! Do you have any ideas how I can earn money to pay for my share of the ticket?"



"Why don't you try babysitting with me?" Liz replied. "That's what I do."

Andy had helped Liz watch their cousins a few weeks earlier. He hadn't enjoyed babysitting at all!

"But Liz, I can't stand babysitting," Andy complained.







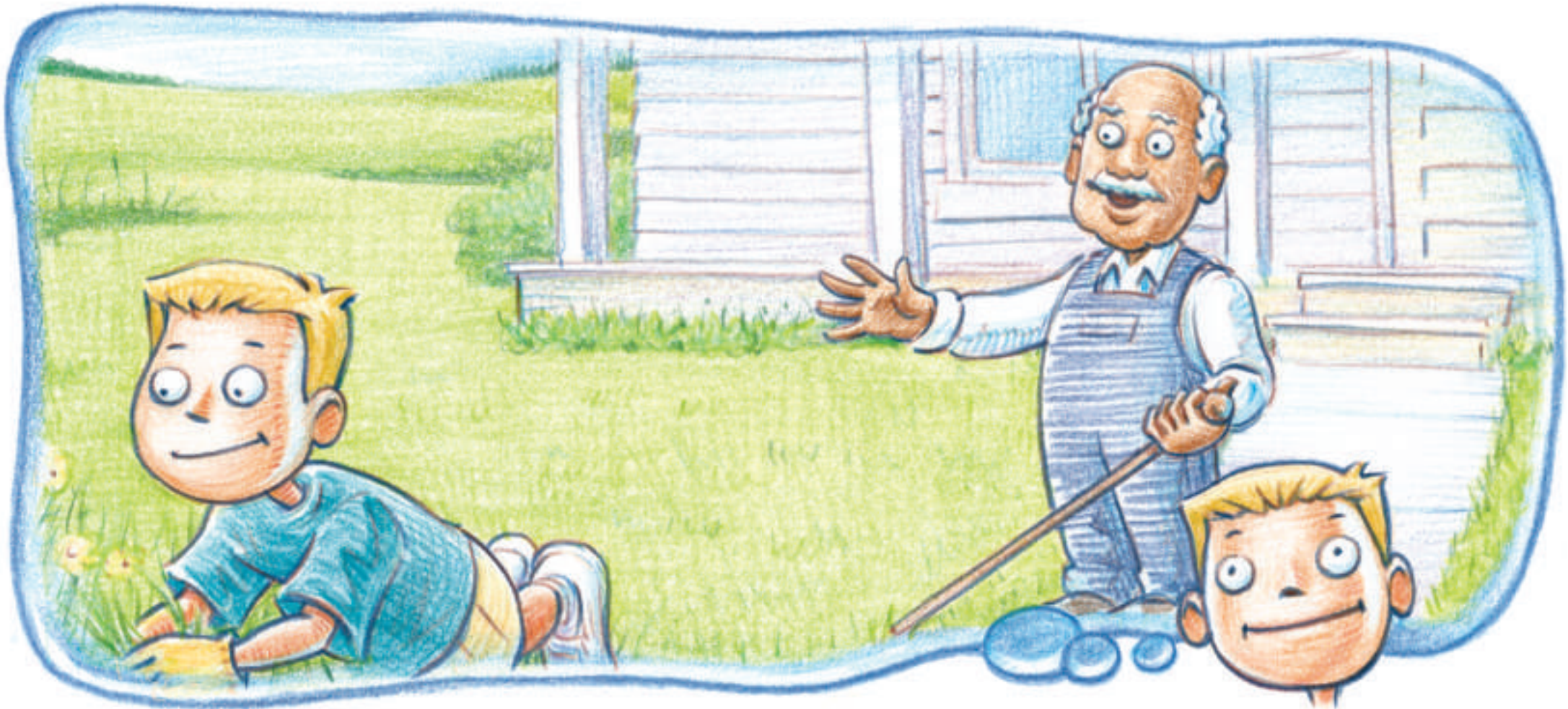
"Then try to think of an interest you have and start there," Liz suggested.

"OK," Andy said as he left his sister's room to think.

Andy thought about what he really liked to do. Earlier that week he had helped weed his neighbor's garden. It had been fun!



Mr. Thornton was getting older, and he needed a helper to pull weeds. He had offered to pay Andy, but Andy said he'd work for free. When Andy had finished his work, Mr. Thornton had said, "It's worth a million dollars to see my garden without those weeds!"







"Why, yes!" said Mr. Thornton. "I was just sitting here thinking that I should ask for help. Will you do it, Andy? I'll pay you to work in my yard. I'll also pay you to collect my mail," he added. Then he asked, "What amount shall I pay you?"



Andy knew that Mr. Thornton would be going on vacation soon. He walked over to Mr. Thornton's house to ask him if he needed more help with the garden.

"Hi," Andy said, spotting Mr. Thornton on his porch. "I was wondering if you need someone to care for your garden while you're away."







"Well, how about a thousand dollars?" Andy joked. "Oh, don't worry, Mr. Thornton. I'm only kidding!" Andy said. "I would never make it that expensive. Does fifteen dollars sound OK?"



"Fifteen dollars sounds just fine," Mr. Thornton replied. "That's a good value for your hard work. And don't worry. You'll get paid on time. I don't like to pay interest! I'll be on vacation from June 20 through June 29. So those are the days you'll need to work."







Andy spent ten days working in Mr. Thornton's yard. He pulled weeds in the garden. He mowed and watered the lawn. Andy also remembered to collect the mail, just as Mr. Thornton had asked.

Mr. Thornton arrived home on June 30. He called Andy on the telephone, and Andy hurried next door to collect his money.



"Andy, you did a wonderful job!" Mr. Thornton exclaimed. "Here's a check for the money you earned. Are you planning to do anything special with it?" Mr. Thornton asked curiously.

"Very special!" Andy said, thrilled. "I'm going to see my favorite band in concert!"

"That sounds exciting," Mr. Thornton replied. "Have a great time!"





## Saving Energy Equals Saving Money!

Did you know there are many things you can do at home that will help save money? Here are two examples:

Electricity and water cost money. Each month, your parents pay for the electricity and water you use. The less you waste those two resources, the more you'll help your family save money!

It's very easy to save electricity. Just make sure to turn off the lights whenever you leave a room. As for water, check the faucets to see if they're dripping. If they are, then tighten them! By taking such simple steps, you can help your whole family save money.



## Reader Response

1. Could this story really happen? Why or why not?
2. Reread pages 4 and 5. Tell the order of Andy's ideas when he thought about ways to get money for the concert ticket. Use a chart like the one below to help organize your thoughts.

First	Next	Last

3. *Interest* appears with different meanings on pages 8 and 13. Use a dictionary to tell which definition is used on each page.
4. If you were in Andy's situation, how would you have earned the money? Explain why.