

8

THE TWINS HAVE AN UNUSUAL HOLIDAY

Warm Up

Who does the following chores in your house?

1. Keeps your plate for wash after eating:.....
2. Makes your bed:
3. Washes your clothes:.....
4. Buys vegetables:.....
5. Keeps your uniform ready:.....

We don't wait to be told – we rise and we fold!

Let's read the story.



Chris and Siera were 11-year-old twins. Their father, Mr. Thomas, was an IT consultant, and he traveled a lot. Their mother, Mrs. Thomas, worked from home, looked after the twins, and attended to their needs.

Mrs. Thomas did all the housework and cooking. She washed clothes and watered the garden, too. Mrs. Thomas tried to get Siera and Chris to do small chores around the house, but they did not help her. They would say they had to do homework, go play with friends, or watch television. Most of the time, Mrs. Thomas was too busy or too tired to argue with them. So, she quietly made their beds and tidied up their mess, as this was easier than asking them to do the work.

One day, Mrs. Thomas got a call from her brother. Her mother, the children's grandmother, had fallen seriously ill and was admitted to a hospital. Mrs. Thomas discussed the issue with her husband and decided to go and take care of her mother. But, as her mother lived in another city, she had to leave Siera and Chris behind.

Mrs. Thomas was worried.

“Will they be able to take care of themselves?” she asked her husband.

Mr. Thomas replied, “Don’t worry. It’s summer vacation now, and the children are at home. It will be a good chance for them to become independent and self-reliant. This will hopefully teach them a few responsibilities.”

Mrs. Thomas felt her husband was right. Before leaving, she hugged and kissed Siera and Chris and said,

“Kids, please take care of your father and the house. I know you will rise to the occasion.” Then, she gave them a list of tasks that needed to be done. “Call me if you have any questions,” said Mrs. Thomas, and she left.

Chris and Siera felt lost.



THINGS TO DO

Make the beds

Tidy the rooms

Wash clothes and hang them out to dry

Fold dried clothes

Set the table for meals

Clear the table after eating

Put extra food in the fridge

Give the garbage to the garbage collector

Water the garden

Cook breakfast, lunch, and dinner

How do we take care of the house without Mum?” asked Siera.

Chris said, “It is a challenge, but Mum said we must rise to it!”

Siera said, “Okay then, let’s do it!”

“So much work! How will we be able to do all this?” Siera and Chris cried together.

“I will show you, and we shall do the tasks together,” said their father, smiling.

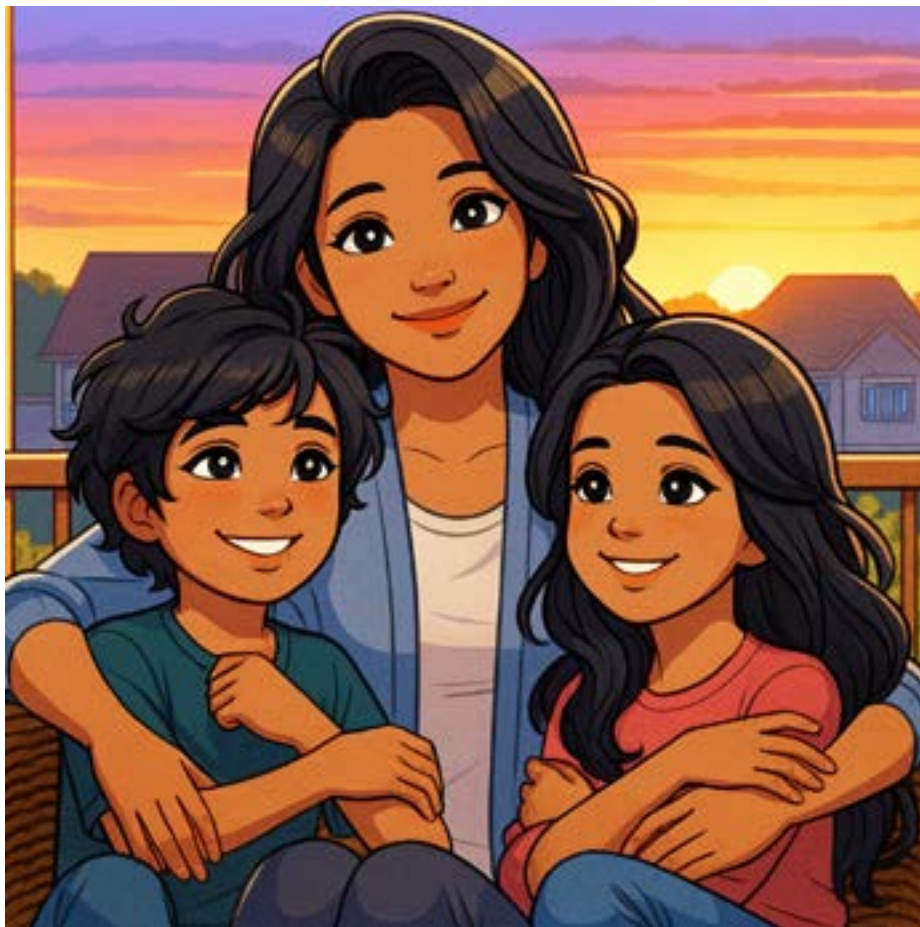


They began doing the tasks on the list, one by one. Mr. Thomas taught the children whatever they did not know. They learned how to wash clothes, set and clear the dining table, and buy vegetables and groceries. Mr. Thomas even taught them how to cook simple meals. “It is important to learn these life skills, as they will help you take care of yourselves when you are alone,” he said.

Siera and Chris were very tired the first few days. “How does Mum work and do all this every day? She must get very tired,” Chris told Siera.

The children both felt sad that they had never helped their mother. They worked hard and soon became quite skilled at their tasks.

Mrs. Thomas finally returned after twenty days. Siera and Chris came running to her and hugged her tightly. “Mum! We missed you! But during these holidays, we rose to the challenge! We have become self-reliant and independent.



We will help you take care of the house from now on!”
Mr Thomas felt proud and happy.

WORD WALL

Chores: Household tasks

Self-reliant: Able to support oneself

Independent: Able to do things on one's own without depending on others

Set the table: Arrange all the dishes, plates, and utensils required for a meal

Adept: Skilled at something

Think and Answer

I. Say true or false.

1. Siera and Chris usually helped their mother with the household chores.
2. Mrs Thomas had to go to another city for some days to take care of her mother.
3. Mr Thomas taught Siera and Chris how to be self-reliant.
4. Siera and Chris were not able to do the household chores.
5. They understood how hard their mother worked to manage the house.

II. Answer in a sentence or two.

1. Write any three household chores that Siera and Chris did in their mother's absence.

.....
.....

2. What chores did Mr. Thomas teach his children to make them self-reliant?

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.....
.....

3. What is the meaning of ‘self-reliant’?

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.....

4. Why is it important to be self-reliant? Discuss with your teacher and provide as many reasons as possible, apart from those mentioned in the story.

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Life skills are essential for living comfortably. It is important to acquire life skills as early as possible, as they boost our confidence and help us become independent, self-reliant, and resourceful. When we become self-reliant, we can support ourselves as well as the people in our lives.

The first step toward self-reliance is learning to do household chores and other duties assigned by your parents. Remember to perform these chores and duties with the right attitude—do them with love and enthusiasm. When work is done with joy, it becomes fun, making both you and your parents happy.

Life skills are important for everyone, regardless of gender. There are no chores or skills meant exclusively for boys or girls.

Activity A: List Your Chores



What life skills would you like to learn, and how do you think they would be useful to you?

.....
.....
.....
.....

Here are some other life skills that make us independent and self-reliant. Tick the skills you already know and practise.

1. Basic first aid
2. Self defence
3. Road safety rules
4. Using money
5. Personal safety rules
6. Problem solving
7. Making decisions

Activity B: Teach A Skill



Do you know any of the life skills listed above? If so, talk about it or teach the rest of your class that particular life skill.

Activity C: Human Knot

The ability to solve problems is an extremely important life skill that helps us become self-reliant. Let's do a fun activity to test our problem-solving skills.

The Order Challenge:

With your teacher's help, form groups of 4 to 6 children. Without talking, your group must line up in order of:

Height (shortest to tallest)

Birthdays (January to December)

You cannot speak or write—you must use gestures, signs, and teamwork to figure it out!



Let's Remember

Self-reliance makes us independent and confident to face all situations in life. We become self-reliant when we do our chores and duties with the right spirit and learn essential life skills.

My Space

What I liked most about this lesson :

.....
.....

I learnt that

.....
.....

The logo features the word "Fun" in a large, bold, yellow font with a blue outline, and "with Family" in a smaller, white font with a blue outline, all contained within a blue, rounded rectangular shape. To the left and right of the text are stylized, colorful water splashes in shades of blue, green, and yellow.

1. *Discuss with parents, family members, or guardians and write a list of chores you can do at home.*

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2. *Here is a checklist of skills and activities that can make us self-reliant. Discuss with parents, family members, or guardians which of these skills/activities you need to pick up. Tick the skills/activities as you learn them from parents, family members, or guardians.*

- *Cooking basic, easy recipes*
- *Learning phone numbers to contact in case of emergencies*
- *Basic safety knowledge during fires, electrical hazards, earthquakes, and when there are intruders*
- *Basic self-defense*
- *Basic first aid*
- *Basic knowledge of money transactions*
- *Making decisions*
- *Problem-solving skills*