

FLORENCE AND HER FRIENDS

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Florence was a very happy child, and she had many friends. She played and played and played. All the children in the neighborhood liked her. They all wanted to go to her house to play because she had many toys and things to play with. The problem was the children made such a mess in her bedroom every day that it began to bother her, and soon she got upset.

She said to herself, “Why do I always have to clean my room? The other children always make such a mess. I need to find a way to solve this problem.”

Florence thought, and she thought, until finally she came up with an idea. If the kids were going to play in her room, she would charge them a penny. With the money she collected from the kids, she would pay one of them to clean her room for her. This was a wonderful plan.

The next day, when all the children came to play, she met them at the door.

She said to them, “You’ll need to pay me one penny before you can come in.”

The children looked at each other.

“One penny?” they said. “We have to pay one penny to play with your toys? When did this happen?”

“I have decided since you always come to my room and mess it up, I would charge a penny for you to play in my room,” she replied to them. “I always have to clean my room after you leave.”

“But we don’t have a penny to give you,” the children responded.

“Then I guess you can’t come in to play,” Florence said.

Then she turned to go inside her house, closing the door behind her.

All afternoon, Florence played in her room. It stayed so neat and clean. The only clutter in her room was the mess she made herself. She could clean it up so easily. She played and played by herself.

The next day the children came to her house. They asked if they could play with her toys.

Once again, Florence told them, “It’ll cost you one penny to come and play in my room. It’s always so messy. Then I have to clean up the mess, so if you have a penny, you can come and play with my toys.”

The children left to go back to their homes. They did not have a penny to pay her.

Florence went back to her room. She was proud that her room was so clean. After playing in her room, she could just go to sleep. She did not have to clean her room.

She thought to herself, “At least it’s my own clutter I’m cleaning, not the mess of those other children.”

The next morning Florence went to her door to talk to the children, but no one was there. They had not come to her house to play. Florence thought that maybe there was a holiday, or a party somewhere else. Maybe the children had gone there to play.

She went to her room, took out all her toys, and they ended up everywhere. She was bored with her toys. They were not as much fun as before. When it came time for her to go to bed, her room was such a mess that it took her longer than ever to clean it. She did not really want to clean her room, but her mother said she had to.

The next day, no one came to her house again. She went to her room and sat in the middle of her floor. She just sat. She was so bored.

She went to her mother and told her what had happened. She told her how she was tired of cleaning her room all the time. Not one of her friends would help her, so she had decided to charge them a penny for them to play in her room. That way she could pay

one of them to help her clean her room. She told her how none of the children had a penny. Because of this, for the past few days, she had played by herself and now she was bored.

Her mother told her that if she wanted friends she would have to share. Her mother suggested that she should ask her friends to help her clean her room before they left. She told her she should not charge her friends a penny to play with her toys.

Florence thought about her mother's idea. She agreed she would try it. She wondered what her friends would say. Maybe they were mad at her.

Florence went to talk to her friends. She went to each of her friends' homes and told them they would not have to pay a penny to play in her room anymore. She asked them to help her clean her room before they went home. Her friends agreed.

The next day, all her friends came to her house. They ran to her room and made a very big mess.

Florence smiled. She liked having her friends back.

VOCABULARY (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. young _____ | a. tired, not excited, nothing to do |
| 2. solve _____ | b. in front of, earlier, in the past |
| 3. penny _____ | c. recommends, proposes |
| 4. clutter _____ | d. not old, immature |
| 5. middle _____ | e. coin, one cent, money |
| 6. holiday _____ | f. finds an answer, resolve |
| 7. bored _____ | g. asks for money, fee, payment, cost |
| 8. before _____ | h. mess, confusion, disorganized |
| 9. charge _____ | i. festival, celebration |
| 10. suggest _____ | j. center |

TRUE / FALSE

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Florence had many toys. | T / F |
| 2. All the children paid one penny. | T / F |
| 3. The children liked Florence. | T / F |
| 4. Florence enjoyed playing by herself. | T / F |
| 5. Florence's mother told her to charge one penny. | T / F |
| 6. The children did not want to play with Florence. | T / F |
| 7. The children came back when they did not have to pay a penny. | T / F |
| 8. Florence's mother was angry with her. | T / F |
| 9. Florence liked to keep her room clean. | T / F |
| 10. The children broke all Florence's toys. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Why did Florence want to charge a penny to play with her toys? ____
 - a) many of her toys were broken
 - b) she was greedy
 - c) she wanted to hurt her friends
 - d) she hated to clean up her room alone

2. What did the children say when Florence asked for a penny? ____
 - a) "Sure, we'll pay you a penny."
 - b) "We don't have a penny to pay you."
 - c) "We'll pay you ten pennies to play in your room."
 - d) "We don't like you anymore."

3. What happened to Florence when she played alone? ____
 - a) she became bored
 - b) she liked to play alone
 - c) she made a lot of money
 - d) she slept very well

4. Why did Florence stop charging a penny to play in her room? ____
 - a) she missed her friends
 - b) her mother told her not to charge a penny
 - c) she did not like being bored
 - d) all the above

COMPREHENSION: *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. How much money did Florence want to charge her friends?

2. Why did Florence want to charge her friends a penny to play with her toys?

3. What did the children say when Florence asked for a penny?

4. Who told Florence to make up with her friends?

5. How many days did Florence play alone?

6. Who always cleaned up the mess in Florence's room?

7. Why did Florence decide not to charge a penny?

8. When the children returned to play in Florence's room, what happened?

9. Where did Florence go to look for her friends?

10. Why did the children not go to her house on the third day?
