

MONEY TOWN KIDS

Work



“I’m bored!” said Hannah to her mom. “There’s nothing to do!”

Hannah sat in the living room flipping channels and staring at the TV.

“The same old shows are on and I’m tired of sitting around.”

It was summertime and Hannah was out of school.

“There’s lots to do, Hannah,” said her mom. “Why don’t you go outside and play?”

“Mom, what I really want to do is take horseback riding lessons!”

Hannah loved horses.

She loved riding horses, petting horses, drawing horses, and her room was filled with horse pictures and small horse figurines on every shelf.

“Honey, horseback riding lessons cost a lot of money.”

Her mom had called about lessons a few weeks earlier and the price was \$350 for the summer session.



“But Mom, Lexi’s parents are paying for her to take lessons. Why can’t you just pay for mine?” Her mom turned and gave her a stern look.

Hannah realized she had gone too far and had been disrespectful.

“Sorry, Mom. I just really, really, REALLY want to take lessons this summer. Please!?”

“Sweetie, your dad and I talked about it and think you need to earn it—if you really want it.”

“Earn it?” said Hannah with a confused look.

“Yep, that’s right. We think you need to get a job and pay for your own lessons. After all, money doesn’t grow on trees and \$350 is a lot of money.”

“Why does everyone always say that!?” said Hannah.

She had NEVER had a job before, and she did not like the idea of it at all.

She went upstairs to look at her horse figurines.

A few minutes later her dad walked into her bedroom.

“Hannah, your mom says you want summer riding lessons.”

Hannah nodded. “Sure do!”

“That’s great, her dad replied, “and I have a way you can earn the \$350 to pay for it.”

Hannah was not so sure about the idea, but she looked up and said, “Ok...I’m listening.”

“Well honey, my office needs someone to clean it. We need just the right person to come in three days a week for 4 weeks and take out the trash, clean bathrooms, vacuum, and dust.”

“You can ride with me to work and your mom will pick you up at lunch. What do you say?”

Hannah thought about it for a while and finally said, “Okay, Dad, I guess so...”

“Great, we’ll need to leave at 7:30 in the morning. So get some sleep!”

The next morning Hannah and her dad drove to his office together. When they walked inside, her dad introduced her to Mrs. Little.

“Hannah, this is Mrs. Little. She’ll be your boss for the next 4 weeks. She’ll show you how to get started and she’ll also inspect your work.”



“So do a good job honey!” her dad said with a smile.

“Hi, Hannah,” said Mrs. Little. “We’re so glad you’re going to help us.”

“Your job is very important. The office runs best when it’s clean, neat, and orderly.”

Mrs. Little showed Hannah where she could get cleaning supplies, trash bags, and other things needed to clean the office.

“Let’s start with the bathrooms.”

Oh great. This should be fun, Hannah joked to herself.

Mrs. Little showed Hannah where the two bathrooms were and how to clean each. She showed her how to clean the sink, toilets, mirrors, and how to mop the floors.

“All right, Hannah, I’ll come back in thirty minutes to see how you’re doing.”

Mrs. Little left and Hannah stood staring at the mop.

Well, I guess it could be worse, she thought, and picked up a bottle of cleaner.

Hannah started on the sinks first. Then she sprayed cleaner on the countertops and used a small rag to wipe them clean.

She sprayed window cleaner on the mirrors and was careful to wipe them neatly, leaving no streaks.

Hannah worked fast and was careful to do exactly as Mrs. Little showed her.

After a few minutes, Hannah moved to the toilets. She sprayed more of the cleaner on each toilet and used a long brush to scrub them clean.

She used a small rag to dry any wet spots before moving to the next toilet.

Hannah finished the last toilet and stood up to look at her work. The toilets were spotless!

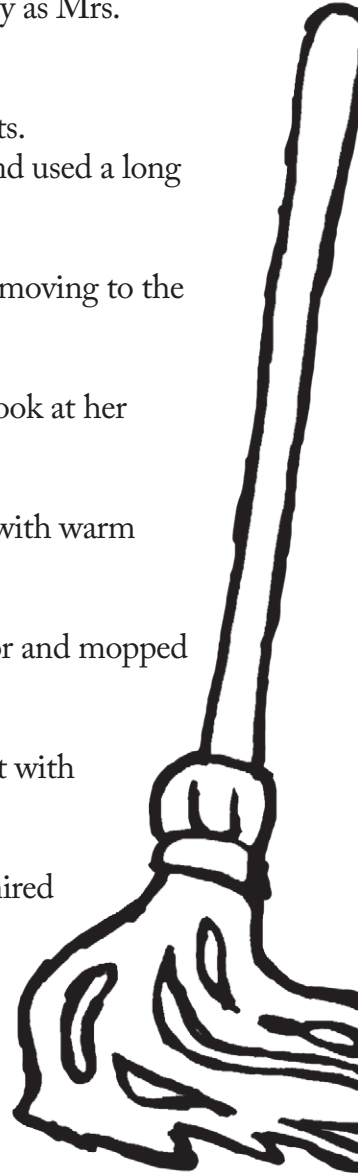
Next she picked up the mop and filled a bucket with warm soapy water.

Hannah started at the back of the bathroom floor and mopped carefully, working her way to the door.

She pushed the mop back and forth and rinsed it with clean water every few feet.

When Hannah finished she stood back and admired her work.

Just then, Mrs. Little walked up and looked inside.



“Wow! Nice job, Hannah. I don’t think our bathrooms have ever shined so brightly.”

“You do excellent work!”

Hannah smiled. She did feel good about the job she did. *That wasn’t so bad*, she thought. *I can’t believe it, but it was actually kind of fun.*

Next Hannah took the trash out of all the offices in the building. Each time she entered an office, people complimented her work and many mentioned how clean the bathroom was. Before Hannah knew it, her mom was there to pick her up for lunch.

“Mom, I can’t believe how fast the day went! It was actually a lot of fun.”

“I’m so glad you and Dad helped me get this job.”

For the next four weeks, Hannah worked hard as she cleaned the office building. She vacuumed, cleaned, dusted, and took the trash out each time.

At the end of the last day, Mrs. Little called Hannah into her office.

“Hannah, you’ve done an exceptional job.”



“If you ever want to come back and work here again, please call me.”

“Sure thing Mrs. Little—I really enjoyed it,” she said with a smile.

Mrs. Little handed Hannah an envelope. Hannah opened it and pulled out a check with her name on it.

Hannah couldn’t believe her eyes.

“I’m sorry Mrs. Little, but I think something’s wrong. I was supposed to earn \$350 and the check is made out for \$400.”

“There’s no problem Hannah. We decided to give you a bonus for the excellent work you’ve done.”

“Thank you, Mrs. Little. I’ve never received a bonus before.”

“You’re welcome. You earned it and we’re proud of you.”

“So when do your horseback riding lessons start?” Mrs. Little asked.

“What? Oh yeah...,” said Hannah, looking a little confused. “This past month of work has been so much fun that I almost forgot about riding lessons! I can’t believe it!”

Hannah and Mrs. Little laughed, and she gave her a big hug.

