

Yard Work

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

It seemed like the work would never end for Steven. He was helping his brother and father in the yard. Each weekend, there was something to do. Why they couldn't just sit inside and watch cartoons like all the other kids, he did not know. With a sigh, he pulled his rake a little harder and faster, hoping he might still get done in time for the last round of cartoons. After all, they'd already done so much.



First, his older brother, Karl, had started cutting the grass with the lawnmower. Dad had used the weedeater to trim up around the house and the bushes. That had left him to walk the yard and stomp down mole trails, so the mower wouldn't scalp the grass. Then he had to use the blower to blow off the driveway and the sidewalks. He couldn't complain much, because he had the easier jobs.

Then, they'd had to do some more stuff. Karl had pulled weeds in the garden beds, while dad had sprayed along the edges of the house for bugs. Steven had to push the spreader, which threw grass fertilizer and ant killer crystals everywhere. He marched up and down the hills and through the front lot. He probably had the harder job this time, but he didn't like pulling weeds, and dad didn't let him play much with the sprayer.

Finally, dad got out the hedge clippers. Dad was sculpting the bushes into nice shapes, while Karl and he both got out rakes. There were a few leaves here and there, and then there were spots where the grass grew faster, so grass clippings piled up. That didn't count the hedge clippings. They gathered all of this stuff into four or five piles, one per section of the yard, and then got a wheelbarrow. Dad was done then, so he pushed the wheelbarrow and helped them dump the yard waste in the compost pile at the back of the yard by the property line.

It was done! Yard work was done for a week. It was a lot of hard work, and that didn't even mention cleaning up the tools, sharpening the lawnmower blades, and the other jobs that came with keeping the yard clean. Dad didn't much like spending money on having someone else do his yard when he had three sets of hands that knew how and could do it. In that, Steven understood it was important to work hard and save money, even if he missed some cartoons.

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

1. Why is Steven unhappy with yard work?
 - A. He is lazy.
 - B. He is missing cartoons.
 - C. He is tired.
 - D. His hands hurt.

2. What is Steven's first set of jobs?
 - A. using the mower and the clippers
 - B. using the weedeater and the mower
 - C. stomping mole hills and using the blower
 - D. raking and using the wheelbarrow

3. What is Steven's second job?
 - A. using the spreader
 - B. raking up yard waste
 - C. using the clippers
 - D. using the wheelbarrow

4. What is Steven's last job?
 - A. using the spreader
 - B. raking up yard waste
 - C. using the clippers
 - D. using the wheelbarrow

5. Why does Steven understand his father's need to do the yard himself?
 - A. It is a lot of fun for them.
 - B. Dad is too cheap to pay the yard man.
 - C. He needs exercise.
 - D. Hard work and saving money are important.

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