

Old Socks

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Susan had a favorite pair of socks. She wore them all the time. She wore them when she slept. She wore them when she ran around in the yard with no shoes on. She wore them when she played games. She wore them when she ate sandwiches or spaghetti.

Sadly, they were starting to get worn out, and Susan's mother kept trying to throw them out. "They're falling apart!" Her mother declared.

"Are not!" Susan replied, defending her socks. They were still awesome. Nothing could change her mind.

"I can see three of your toes poking out, and those socks smell like something died in them." Susan's brother Tommy teased her.



"Be quiet, Tommy!" Susan hollered.

"Susan. Tommy." Mother didn't have to raise her voice or shout. She just knew how to say her children's names so that they would listen.

"Mom, you can't throw away my socks. I won my first softball game wearing them. I wore them for two Christmases and at my birthday party this year. I *love* them." Susan whined.

Tommy groaned. "Mom, she's going to be married in them and buried in them. It's gross."

"Susan, they are getting pretty smelly and threadbare. I'm afraid that they'll unravel completely next time they go in the wash. I think you'll have to retire them and find a new favorite pair of socks."

"I have a favorite pair of underwear." Bobby, Susan and Tommy's youngest brother, told everyone. He never wanted to be left out. Whatever anyone did, he wanted to do, but he was only four years old.

"Ewww!" Susan tried to ignore her brother, even if Tommy laughed. Her socks were more important right now.

"I don't see how I could ever love any socks as much as these." Susan sighed, but it was almost time for her to admit they were falling apart. Just yesterday she'd ripped right through the heel of the left sock. "I guess I could start looking for a new pair of favorite socks."

"Take your time, dear. Just don't take too much time."

"I won't." Susan promised. "Now come on, socks. Let's go make a few more memories together!" She figured she might as well enjoy them while they lasted.

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

1. Susan has a favorite pair of what?
 - A. Shoes
 - B. Pants
 - C. Socks
 - D. Earrings

2. Why does Susan's mother want her to get rid of the socks?
 - A. They are an ugly color.
 - B. They are falling apart.
 - C. They are from her mean Aunt.
 - D. None of the above

3. What reasons does Tommy give for not liking her socks?
 - A. They have holes and they are smelly.
 - B. They used to be his and she stole them.
 - C. They are a weird color and have stains.
 - D. They are very sparkly and scare him.

4. What thing does Susan not wear her favorite socks for?
 - A. Softball games
 - B. Birthday parties
 - C. Eating spaghetti
 - D. Dancing

5. What lesson does Susan learn from her socks?
 - A. Enjoy things while they last.
 - B. Never wash your clothes.
 - C. Don't argue with your brother.
 - D. Listen to your parents.

Old Socks – Answer Key

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