

Spring Cleaning

"Cleaning is so boring!" Jonas groaned. He dropped the broom and sat on the floor. It seemed like they'd been cleaning for hours.

Jonas' mother sighed. She was finishing up on the windows and moving on to the cabinets next. "Cleaning is important, even if we don't like it."

"Why? Is it just to keep me busy?"

Mother grinned. "No, there are worse things I could have you do if I wanted you to keep busy. There are toilets to clean, dishes to scrub, and a dog that needs a bath."

Jonas gulped. "Are those tomorrow's chores?"

"Maybe not tomorrow, but someday."

"Soon?" He winced.

"Probably, but you're avoiding the topic. Why is cleaning important?" Mother asked.

"I don't know. So things aren't dusty?"

Mother shook her head. "If you take care of things you have, they last longer. It's also healthier to keep things from getting dusty like you said. Why else?"

Jonas shrugged. "Maybe it's to throw out old junk?"

"That can be a good thing. We don't need to keep stuff that is just taking up space. We could sell it, give it away, or throw it out if it's not good for anything."

"Sometimes I find stuff I forgot about when we clean." Jonas said, remembering how he found some toys he'd forgotten about last time he cleaned his closet.

Mother smiled. "Yes, and that can save us from wasting money on new things, when we already have them. You never know what you have until you clean your closets."

"Alright, so cleaning isn't totally bad." Jonas admitted. "It's not fun though."

"No, it isn't really," Mother agreed, "unless you make a game of it."

"A game?" Jonas perked up.

Mom smiled. "I bet I can have this cabinet cleaned before you vacuum the carpets."

"And if I win?" He asked.

"How about some ice cream?" Mom offered.

"Deal!" Jonas shouted, running for the vacuum. Cleaning wasn't fun, but at least he might get ice cream. It felt good to help out, too.



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

1. Which BEST describes what doesn't Jonas like doing?
 - A. Sweeping
 - B. Cleaning
 - C. Dusting
 - D. Organizing

2. Which of these is a reason that Jonas gave for cleaning?
 - A. To throw out old stuff
 - B. To find money in the sofa
 - C. To get chores done so he can play games
 - D. To get paid

3. Which of these is NOT a reason mother gave for cleaning?
 - A. You save money if you find things that you can use.
 - B. It's really fun to move stuff around.
 - C. You save space when you reorganize and get rid of stuff you don't need.
 - D. It's healthier when things aren't dusty and dirty.

4. How does mother make cleaning more fun?
 - A. She pays Jonas.
 - B. She threatens Jonas.
 - C. She makes it a game.
 - D. She cries.

5. How does Jonas feel about cleaning at the end of the story?
 - A. He doesn't like it, but he likes helping out.
 - B. He loves it.
 - C. He wants to clean more tomorrow.
 - D. He's thinking about being a professional cleaner.

Spring Cleaning – Answer Key

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