

Maggie's Big Day

The alarm clock went off. Maggie groaned and pressed her pillow over her ears. It was only six o'clock. Much too early to get up on a Saturday morning!

Then Maggie remembered why she'd set the alarm. Her mom was visiting Grandma today. That meant Maggie had to help her dad at the grocery store. "OK, let's get moving," Maggie said to herself. And with that, she rolled out of bed and changed into her play clothes. After breakfast, Maggie and her dad headed downstairs to **open** the store.

Maggie enjoyed working with her dad at the store. Today she had a lot of work to do. First, she put more things to **sell** on the shelves. Then she organized the counters. Finally, she found the broom and swept the floor. When Maggie had finished sweeping, her dad brought over a big box of cookies from a bakery. "Would you help me get these ready to sell?" he asked. "I need you to put them in that glass case."

"Sure, Dad," Maggie responded, taking the box from her dad.

As she was lining up the cookies, Maggie's two best friends, Maria and Johanna, came into the store to **buy** some candy. They would often **spend** their **money** on the special candies and treats that were sold in the store.

"Hi, Maggie! We're going to the movies," said Johanna. "Would you like to come with us?"

"I can't," replied Maggie. "My mom isn't here, so my dad really needs my help. But the store closes at four o'clock today. Maybe we can get together after the movie," suggested Maggie.

"That sounds great," Johanna and Maria said. "We'll see you then." They left the store.

Just then, Maggie's dad came over and gave her a big hug. "I am so proud of you, Maggie," he said. "You have been such a big help this morning! I knew I wouldn't have been able to open the store without you."

COMPREHENSION Which words help you understand what it might be like to work in a store? What does Maggie do to help her family?



A Time to Help

In the summer of 2005, a huge storm called Hurricane Katrina hit part of the United States. It was one of the worst storms in our country's history. The winds were very strong. They knocked over trees and buildings. The rain was heavy. It caused floods. The state of Louisiana was hurt the worst by the storm. It has a big city named New Orleans that many people live in or like to go visit. Almost the entire city of New Orleans was flooded. This means it filled up with water. Many buildings were ruined, and thousands of people lost their homes. The President of the United States visited New Orleans and other places that the storm had hurt. Then **he** told the people living in other places of the United States that it was time to help.

People heard the President. Many of them thought, "**I** feel sorry for those people who have been hurt by the storm. I should find other people who feel the way I do. Then together **we** need to think of a way to help those people." And then lots of people started to help. Some were grownups. Some of them were children like **you**.

Montana is another state in the United States. Children living in Montana wanted to help the people in New Orleans. These children were part of a program called "Montana Kids Care." **They** collected supplies such as food and clothing and sent them to the people who lost these things in the storm. They also raised over \$112,400! That is a lot of money.

The children in Montana had many different ways of raising money for the people hurt by Hurricane Katrina. Kids living in a town called Hamilton did a walkathon. A walkathon is an event that helps people raise money. Students walk for a long time, and people give them money for walking. Together, those kids walked a total of 2,330 miles! Other kids thought of all sorts of ways to raise money. They asked people to see who could donate the most pennies. They made and sold candy. They even held school dances. The kids worked hard to help people whom they had never met, who lived thousands of miles away.

It is very important to help people when they need it, no matter how old you are. The people living in New Orleans needed lots of help, and kids across the country showed that they could do something about it. How do you think you would help if you could?

COMPREHENSION Why do you think people want to help others in times of trouble? What are some words, like *I*, that are used in place of people's names?

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