

Having a Yard Sale

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

It was yard sale time again, and everyone in the Jones family was getting their stuff ready. Each person in the family was responsible for cleaning out their closets and storage spaces, and setting up a table out in front of the house. They would each sell and keep the money they made from their own table.

Billy, the youngest, sorted through his toys. He put several damaged robots in his yard sale box, along with some other games he was tired of. He also found some clothes that didn't fit any longer, because he was taller now than he had been a few months ago.

Suzy, the middle child, decided to part with a handful of her prized stuffed animals from her collection. It was just getting far too large, and there were some that looked dingy or she just didn't love as much as she used to. She also found some old books that were too babyish and a few accessories she'd grown out of.

Regina, the eldest, was nearly in high school. She had music CDs, some roller skates, some clothes, and a whole bunch of girly stuff to get rid of. She had the most clothes of any of the kids to get rid of. She got tired of things fast, and needed money for new ones!

Dad had some old tools he could part with, some records he didn't listen to, some computer parts, a few things from his garage, and a few out-of-style jackets and suits. It was always easy for him to get ready, though, because he didn't seem too attached to anything, unless it was useful, like fishing stuff or tools.

Mom had a few items to get rid of. She chose some handbags, some shoes, and some clothes she didn't care for anymore. She also found some dishes that were parts of old sets where most of the other dishes were lost or broken. There were some knickknacks and cutesy stuff she wanted gone, too.

Together, the five of them set up their tables and manned them from 7 A.M. on. It was a big thing, to decorate one's table and get all the merchandise set up in the most attractive way. Each of them had their own money piles, too, to help make change if someone bought something.

The crowds came early and the buying and selling was fierce. From 7:30 until 9:30, there was hardly a chance to take a break. Many people brought young kids, so Billy did well, selling out of toys quickly. Girls liked Suzy's stuffed animals, and a few teenagers snagged up most of Regina's fashions. Mom and Dad had the most stuff, so their items took longer to sell, but they also made more money for it.

In the end, Billy made \$22, Suzy made \$18, and Regina made \$43. Mom and Dad made a bit more, on account of having more things and having more expensive things. Dad made \$143, and mom made \$97. It was quite a good day. Everyone was happy about the results, even if a few things didn't sell and had to be put back in boxes or the garage for next time. Already, ideas were forming in each person's head about how to spend the money they'd earned!



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

1. What is the Jones family going to do?
 - A. Move to another house
 - B. Have a cookout
 - C. Have a yard sale
 - D. Sell things to pay for a vacation
2. Which of these items does Billy NOT bring to his table?
 - A. robots
 - B. games
 - C. clothes
 - D. a necklace
3. Which girl brings music CDs to her table?
 - A. Suzy
 - B. Regina
 - C. Mom
 - D. none of these
4. Who makes the most money at the yard sale?
 - A. Billy
 - B. Dad
 - C. Mom
 - D. Regina
5. Who makes the least money at the yard sale?
 - A. Suzy
 - B. Billy
 - C. Regina
 - D. Dad

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