

Peter's Jobs

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Peter was a high school student. He was pretty busy with school, and he was on the soccer team, but he still had a little bit of time left over. High school was hard, because everyone wanted to have nice clothes, hang out, drive cars, and do a lot of stuff that cost money. Therein lay the problem.

Peter's father was the sort of guy that believed you had to earn whatever you got, so he wasn't just about to hand over lots of money for Peter to use to have fun. Sure, Peter earned some money for helping out in the yard and doing household chores, but that was not enough money to get around with. So, he had to get a job.

During his freshman year summer vacation, his classmate got him a job working on a hay farm. He tossed hay up into wagons as the tractor drove around fields, and then they stacked it in the hot barn. Some customers would come by and pick up a few hundred bails in their trucks and trailers, and others would require deliveries. It was a hot, low-paying job.

During that year at school, he worked a few nights a week at a grocery store. He was a stock clerk. He put things on the shelf. It was a lot of lifting and carrying, but mostly he had carts to use, and his arms were strong from the previous job. It was dull and didn't pay much. At least it was inside in the air-conditioning.

He took some time off when soccer got serious, but the following summer he tried working at a lumber yard. It was hot outside work again, but he got a lot of exercise lifting and carrying things like boards and drywall. He also learned a lot about building supplies. It still didn't pay well.

From there, he spent a year doing some tutoring for a friend of the family, but that was not frequent work. It was piecemeal. His first real job came the last year at school and that following summer, when he fixed registers and worked on computers at a big box store. It was his favorite job yet, but it still didn't pay well.

The thing Peter realized with all of these jobs was that he needed a better paying job! The only way to get that was to get trained or educated. He could do some sort of certificate classes and then work a trade, like plumbing or working on AC's. He could go to school and get a 2-year degree in an office or technical position. His other choices were going to a 4-year college or going into the military. He wasn't sure what he was going to do yet, but he knew he had to do something.

Jobs were a lot of work, money was hard to earn, but he liked staying busy and being able to buy things. Peter wanted the most out of life, and that meant education.



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

1. What was Peter's first job?
 - A. computer repairs
 - B. hay farm
 - C. tutoring
 - D. stocks clerk

2. What was Peter's second outside job?
 - A. road construction
 - B. dairy farm
 - C. lumber yard
 - D. yard service

3. Which of these was NOT one of Peter's jobs?
 - A. computer repairs
 - B. soccer coach
 - C. lumber yard
 - D. tutor

4. Which of these is NOT one of Peter's future options that was discussed?
 - A. military
 - B. certificate classes
 - C. 4-year college
 - D. beauty school

5. Based on the story, does it seem like Peter will go forward in his education?
 - A. Not really.
 - B. Definitely.
 - C. Maybe.
 - D. Certainly not.

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