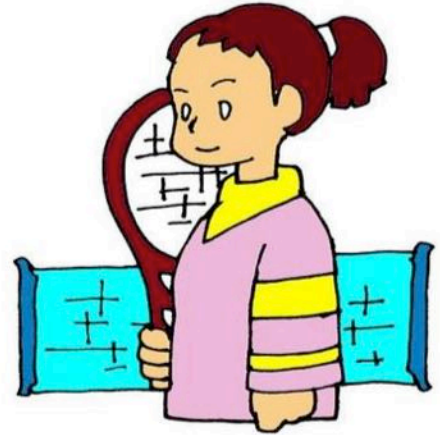


A New Tennis Racket

Story By: Judie Eberhardt

It was spring, and Margie wanted to get a new tennis racket, new tennis balls, and a really neat case to keep her racket clean. There was only one problem. The tennis racket, balls, and case were too expensive. Margie only saved up \$10.00, and that was not even close to what she would need to buy her equipment. *I could ask mom and dad for an advance on my allowance* she thought to herself. But that would be a big advance!

That night Margie talked to her mom and dad and told them her problem. "Did you ever think about maybe doing some chores around the neighborhood to earn some extra money?" asked dad. "It would take me too long to earn the money," said Margie. "I need the new racket and balls for the school competition in two weeks." "Well," said dad. "If you earn part of the money, I'll advance you the rest." "How does that sound?" asked dad. "Okay," said Margie. Margie went to her room and thought about what chores she could do. Billy from next door mows all the lawns, Shelly walks Mr. Frank's dog, and Tony washes Mr. Lipton's car. *There is nothing that I can do to earn this money,* thought Margie.



The next day after school, Margie went past the store, *Sports Time*. She loved to look in the window at all the new tennis equipment and other goodies Mr. Thomas had in the store. Margie went in and looked at the new tennis racket she wanted. "Hi Margie," said Mr. Thomas. "What can I do for you today?" "I wanted to see if there was a sale on that great tennis racket." "I'm afraid not," said Mr. Thomas. It is still \$60.00. "I only have \$10.00 saved, and my dad said if I could do chores around town, he would advance me the rest," said Margie. Mr. Thomas could see how much Margie wanted the tennis racket, and she told him about the school competition. "I'll tell you what," said Mr. Thomas. "Come here after school for the next two weeks and help me out." "After the two weeks, I'll let you have the racket for \$10.00." "Really!" yelled Margie. Since you are too young to work in the store, I can't pay you, but if you help out, I can give you the racket in exchange for your work." Margie was so happy when she went home and told her parents. "That was very kind and generous of Mr. Thomas," said her mom. "I will be able to have my new racket and tennis balls in time for the competition." "I can wait on the case," laughed Margie.

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

1. How much money did Margie have saved?
 - A. Five dollars
 - B. Ten dollars
 - C. Eight dollars
 - D. Twelve dollars

2. When was the school tennis competition?
 - A. In one week
 - B. In two months
 - C. In one month
 - D. In two weeks

3. Who mowed the lawns in Margie's neighborhood?
 - A. Tony
 - B. Shelly
 - C. Billy
 - D. Mr. Thomas

4. How much did the tennis racket cost that Margie wanted to buy?
 - A. Twenty dollars
 - B. Thirty dollars
 - C. Fifty dollars
 - D. Sixty dollars

5. What words would you use to describe Mr. Thomas?
 - A. Kind and generous
 - B. Mean and grumpy
 - C. Young and funny
 - D. None of the above

A New Tennis Racket – Answer Key

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