

# Babysitting

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Sharon wanted to make some money. She was only 15, so she couldn't drive and get a job at a store, but she could babysit. Her neighbors had two kids in elementary school. They were always so busy that they rarely got time to go out on their own, but they still went out once or twice a month. There were other high school girls she had seen watching their kids before, so why couldn't she do it? She lived next door, and it would be so convenient!

She approached the woman next door one day when she was getting the paper. The woman was surprised at first, but really didn't seem against the idea. Sharon was very polite and tried to sound helpful and confident. The woman said she'd speak to her husband about it, and they'd call if she was needed. It sounded promising.

Truthfully, she'd only babysat for her cousins a couple times before, but she knew how to do it. There were always household rules to learn and make sure kids followed. Definitely don't let anyone get hurt or let other people in the house. Make sure everyone ate their meals, took their baths if necessary, and brushed their teeth. Keep the phone handy in case of problems or in case the parents called to check up. These were the basics.

It was a couple weeks later when the neighbor lady knocked on the door and asked for a favor, because their regular babysitter was out of town. Sharon grinned and said absolutely. At \$10 an hour, a few hours at night would be great. All she had to do was be successful once, and they wouldn't hesitate to call her again.

Sharon watched the kids, Peter and Michelle, that night. Peter was the youngest, and he only ate spaghetti-O's. He couldn't have water past 8 P.M. either, or he'd wet to bed. Michelle was older, in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. She wasn't supposed to stay up texting on her phone or listening to her MP3 player.



They were good kids and didn't give her much trouble. If anything, because she was close to their age, they saw her as a bit of a big sister. Sharon read books to Peter until he fell asleep. He even brushed his teeth and washed his face. Michelle sang her favorite songs with her while they worked on her math homework. Then they folded laundry together, since that was Michelle's chore. It wasn't bad at all. It was actually kind of fun.

The neighbors returned an hour or so after the kids were asleep, and were very much relieved to see everything in order. They paid her for her work and thanked her. Sharon smiled as she walked home – just next door. It seemed like she might get asked back. It was a nice job and a great way to make some extra money.



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

1. Why can't Sharon have a regular job?
  - A. She's not old enough to drive.
  - B. Her parents won't let her.
  - C. She's too busy with school.
  - D. She got in trouble and she's grounded.
  
2. Who does Sharon want to babysit for?
  - A. her aunt
  - B. her best friend's mom
  - C. her teacher
  - D. her neighbors
  
3. Why does the neighbor ask Sharon to babysit?
  - A. They trust her a lot.
  - B. Their regular babysitter is out of town.
  - C. They ask just about anyone to watch their kids.
  - D. They want to go to a party.
  
4. What are the two kids' names that Sharon is babysitting for?
  - A. Peter and Mary
  - B. Peter and Paul
  - C. Mary and Michelle
  - D. Peter and Michelle
  
5. How does the night turn out?
  - A. It was a nightmare!
  - B. It was actually kind of fun, and she got paid!
  - C. It was okay, but she doesn't want to do it again.
  - D. The neighbors came home early, fearing a disaster.

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