

Retirement Party

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Hannah was going to a party. It wasn't a birthday party. It wasn't a surprise party. It wasn't even a barbecue party. Nope, it wasn't a sleepover party, either. It was a retirement party. She'd never been to one of them before and didn't know quite what to expect.

Her grandfather had worked for a company for 40 years. That was a long time! He'd started at age 25, and now he was 65. He was going to stop working and enjoy himself. That meant he was going to have a retirement party.

It seemed strange to Hannah to have a party for quitting something. It wasn't like he was quitting smoking or something harmful; he was quitting work. It was like celebrating for being lazy. She certainly didn't get parties for not doing her homework and chores. Still, it did make sense to rest after doing 40 years of hard work. He'd earned it.

Hannah wondered what her grandfather would do with his time. He was the kind of guy that got up at 5 A.M. and didn't come back home until 4 P.M. So, what would he do with all that spare time? Hopefully, he wouldn't bother grandma too much. He had hobbies he could spend time on, and he could read books or watch TV more.

She figured her grandfather would do a lot more fishing and golfing. She went with him occasionally, but he didn't always have time to do much of that stuff. Now that he wasn't going to go to work, maybe he'd do it almost every day. He could sleep in, too. Hannah wanted to do that every time she thought about him getting up at 5 A.M. It made her sleepy just thinking about the alarm going off that early.

Hannah watched many people say goodbye to her grandfather. They were all telling stories, laughing, and joking about the years they'd spent together. It was kind of sad to see it all ending. She wondered what kind of job she'd have some day and if the people she worked with would miss her this much when she quit. 40 years was a LONG time. She didn't know if she'd ever work that long anywhere.

When the party was over and grandfather had opened all of his gifts, he looked sad, tired, and a little happy. She hugged him, and he told her he'd be seeing a lot more of her, since he had all this new free time. That was going to be great!



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

1. TRUE OR FALSE: Hannah has been to a retirement party before.
 - A. True
 - B. False

2. How does Hannah feel about a retirement party at first?
 - A. She thinks it sounds fun.
 - B. She thinks it sound boring.
 - C. She thinks it sounds great for her grandfather.
 - D. She thinks it is weird to celebrate quitting.

3. Hannah thought her grandfather would spend his free time doing all EXCEPT which of the following?
 - A. fishing
 - B. watching TV
 - C. swimming
 - D. reading

4. How does Hannah feel about retirement parties at the end?
 - A. She hopes someday people will miss her as much as her grandfather's friends miss him.
 - B. She never wants to have one for herself.
 - C. She can't wait to retire and start living the easy life.
 - D. She thinks they're a waste of time.

5. What benefit does Hannah get from the retirement party?
 - A. She won a prize.
 - B. She gets to go on a trip.
 - C. She gets nothing.
 - D. She will spend more time with her grandfather now.

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