

Back to School Blues

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Jimmy sighed as he looked at the calendar. Tomorrow's date was circled in red and there was a skull and crossbones drawn in the box. He groaned and slapped at the calendar.

"What are you doing?" His sister Susan asked.

"I'm looking at the calendar."

"I see that, but why are you hitting it?"

"I don't want to go back to school yet." He whined. "I can't help it. I don't want to get up early, do homework every night, and sit in those uncomfortable seats for hours."

"So what is your alternative? Will you live under a bridge?" Susan snorted, amused by the idea.

Jimmy shook his head. "No, I could be a superstar in sports or a famous actor."

Susan smirked. "Good luck at age eleven. Most athletes and actors struggle for years to get where they are, and most of them are educated. I don't really think you have developed any super talents yet, and you aren't particularly handsome, either."

"That's not nice!" Jimmy protested.

"Sorry to break it to you, but a little honesty might help sometimes. Besides, homework gets you out of chores at home. Dad doesn't make us do as much when we have homework."

"True."

"And TV is way more fun when you only have time for a little of it. Sitting in front of it for hours is boring." Susan continued. Each thing she said destroyed another reason for disliking school.

"Also true." Jimmy admitted.

"And all of our friends are at school." Susan pointed out.

"Alright, I get it. School isn't all bad." Jimmy finally admitted.

Susan smiled. "Nope."

"I don't have to *like* it though."

"You will, though." Susan promised, smiling.

Somehow, Jimmy thought she was right. Friends, pizza for school lunch, less chores... there were a lot of reasons to like school.



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

1. Why is Jimmy upset when he looks at the calendar?
 - A. He forgot his grandma's birthday.
 - B. He missed his baseball game.
 - C. He has homework due soon.
 - D. He has to go back to school tomorrow.

2. How does Jimmy's sister Susan feel about going back to school?
 - A. She doesn't care.
 - B. She hates the idea.
 - C. She thinks school has some good things about it.
 - D. She is dreading it.

3. Which of these is NOT a reason why Jimmy dislikes school?
 - A. comfortable chairs
 - B. long hours
 - C. homework
 - D. getting up early

4. Which of these is a reason Susan gives for liking school?
 - A. P.E. class
 - B. riding the bus
 - C. seeing friends
 - D. learning new things

5. How does Jimmy feel at the end of the conversation?
 - A. He reluctantly thinks he won't mind going to school.
 - B. He's scared to go to school.
 - C. He's happy to go to school.
 - D. He's crying about going to school.

Back to School Blues – Answer Key

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