

The Chores

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Three brothers named Greg, Todd, and Rob all shared the chores. Every weekend, they would draw sticks to see who had to do what. The six sticks had the chores written on them. They each took turns drawing sticks until each of them had two. Then, they could trade if they wanted to, but they still each had to do both jobs.

Greg drew first. He got garbage duty, a smelly but fast job. Todd drew out the stick with the lawn mowing duty written on it. He groaned, because that was the longest job. Rob pulled clean the garage, which was a dusty and boring job.

The next round, Rob went first, since he'd gone last the first round. He drew vacuuming duty. He shrugged. That one wasn't too bad. Todd drew out dish washing duty, and Greg got laundry duty.

"Anyone want to trade for lawn mowing?" Todd asked hopefully.

"I'll take that if you do both of mine." Greg suggested, but that would leave Greg with three jobs and him with one. It wasn't likely to happen.

Todd thought about it and shook his head. "No, lawn mowing isn't fun, but I can still get it done faster than doing three jobs. I would trade dishes for garbage, though."

"Deal!" Both were happy. Greg didn't like garbage, and Todd wanted both of his jobs to be outside. It made sense.

Rob had already started his jobs, because he was fine with them. He'd already gotten the vacuum out while his brothers traded. He smiled at them and pushed the power button. He liked to listen to music while he did his chores.

So the boys worked. They didn't much care for work, but they knew it was better to just get on it and get it all done, rather than whine and waste time. If they worked fast, they all knew they'd have the afternoon off.

Greg quickly finished the dishes, but then he had to wait to finish the laundry, because he couldn't hang it up outside until that part of the grass had been cut. Of course, Todd planned on cutting that section last, smiling all the while.

Rob wrapped up the vacuuming in no time at all, and then moved on to the garage. He did both with the music blaring in his MP3 player. By the time he was almost done with the garage, Todd pulled the lawnmower in and got grass all over. Rob tried to complain, but Todd just shrugged and moved off to finish the garbage.

In the end, they all finished about the same time. The garbage, the garage, and the laundry all wrapped up within a few minutes of each other. Then, they cleaned themselves up and enjoyed the rest of the weekend.



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

1. What are the three brothers doing?
 - A. arguing
 - B. homework
 - C. chores
 - D. studying

2. Who chooses a chore first?
 - A. Todd
 - B. Rob
 - C. Greg
 - D. none of the brothers

3. Greg starts with garbage duty, but who ends up with it?
 - A. Todd
 - B. Rob
 - C. Greg
 - D. none of the brothers

4. Why did Rob not try to change his chores?
 - A. He didn't want to mow.
 - B. He is too shy to argue.
 - C. He didn't mind the chores he picked.
 - D. He liked to work.

5. Which brother seems to slow others down with his actions?
 - A. Todd
 - B. Rob
 - C. Greg
 - D. none of the brothers

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