

Hot Weather, Cool Fan

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

"It's my turn!" Billy shouted.

"It is not! I have one more minute." Jake replied angrily.

Billy and his brother, Jake, were sharing a floor fan. It was one of those oscillating fans that turned back and forth, or at least it was supposed to. It was not a new fan, so it no longer turned. So, Billy and Jake were taking turns sitting in front of the fan on a really hot day.

"Time's up." Billy said. He'd watched the clock. There was actually about 10 seconds left in his brother's minute, but by the time his brother actually moved, the minute would be up.

"Clock watcher." Jake grumbled.

"So? It's my turn now." Billy shoved his brother out of the way and sat in front of the cool, fresh air blowing from the fan. Actually, it wasn't that fresh. It smelled dusty, but at least it was cool.

"Why can't we have air conditioning?" Jake wondered aloud, now that he was sitting to the side of his brother, just getting a little bit of air.

Billy sighed. He'd been to his friends' houses before, and their cool AC was clean smelling, not dusty at all. It was like stepping into a refrigerator at Dean's house. "Mom and Dad say it's expensive."

"I'd give up TV for AC." Jake whined.

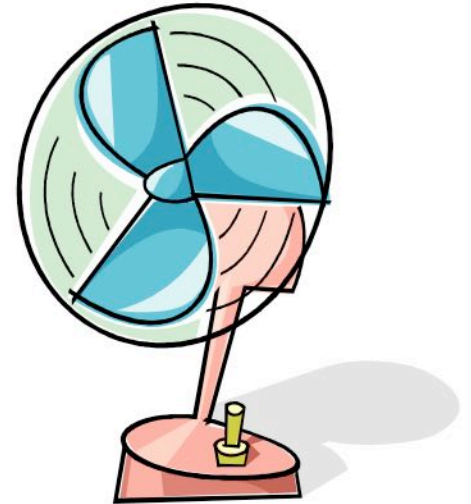
Billy shook his head. "I wouldn't. I'd rather be hot than bored."

"It's too hot to sleep or think or do anything without the fan, though." Jake said quietly. It was too hot to talk, too!

"I wish this one still moved." Billy replied.

Suddenly, Billy had an idea. He ran out of the room, forgetting his turn, and came back with some string and Mom's plant stand with wheels on it from the garage. In a few minutes, they had the fan tied up and on wheels, so they could turn the fan back and forth by pulling on the strings. They could share the fan again!

Now they could watch TV and share the fan. It wasn't air conditioning, but it was better than nothing. Plus, they felt good for solving a problem.



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

1. What are Billy and Jake arguing about?
 - A. Who gets the last cookie
 - B. Who gets to choose the TV channel
 - C. Who gets to use the fan
 - D. Whose turn it is for the computer

2. What is wrong with the fan?
 - A. It only works for 5 minutes.
 - B. It doesn't turn any more.
 - C. It only works on low speed.
 - D. It doesn't work at all.

3. TRUE OR FALSE: Billy and Jake don't want Air Conditioning at their house.
 - A. True
 - B. False

4. What idea does Billy have?
 - A. Sell the fan and buy a new one.
 - B. Fix the fan with a screwdriver.
 - C. Turn the fan with strings and a wheeled cart.
 - D. Make mom turn on the air conditioning.

5. How does Billy feel after finding a way to turn the fan?
 - A. He feels smart.
 - B. He feels happy for solving a problem.
 - C. He feels silly.
 - D. He feels hungry.

Hot Weather, Cool Fan – Answer Key

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