

# I Never Want to Sleep

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Johnny never wanted to sleep again. "Sleep is such a waste of time!" He declared.

Truthfully, he was just really upset over missing a meteor shower last night. If he'd stayed up just an extra 15 minutes, he'd have seen dozens of bright streaks shooting across the sky. Instead, he spent the time staring at the inside of his eyelids and drooling on his pillow.

"You have to sleep." His father told him.

"No, I don't. All the best TV is on late."

"You mean the movies with bad words and too much violence."

"Exactly!" Johnny agreed. "But night is the coolest. Owls and neat animals come out and play around, meteor showers happen, and you can study the moon with a telescope. What can I do during the day?"

Father smiled, because he had a lot of ideas about what should happen during the day: "Play soccer, play other sports, go fishing, read a book without a lamp, eat meals, and do chores."

"I can play kick-the-can at night. That's more fun than soccer or baseball. I can go night fishing and catch the big ones. I could just read a book on the computer or listen to my mp3 player. I could also eat snacks at night, and I could play instead of doing chores. There is no reason to go to bed."

"How about your bedtime?" Father sounded like he was quickly getting tired of this debate.

"How about changing it?" Johnny suggested.

"Johnny, you have a bedtime because it makes sure you get enough rest. Without enough sleep, you're sluggish and lazy all day. You can't think well, and you don't do good work. You certainly don't study well if you're tired. Besides, people actually get sick if they don't sleep."

That was a shocking idea. "You can get sick from not enough sleep?"

"Well, you go crazy first and start hearing or seeing things. Then you could eventually get very sick, yes. People were designed to work, eat, and rest. You can't just cut out the rest."

"I see." Maybe sleep *was* necessary. "Could I at least stay up later on meteor shower nights or eclipses, though?"

"Sure. We'll see about that. It is a good excuse to miss maybe an hour of sleep, but not all night."

Johnny grinned. "That sounds great. I'm glad we had this talk."



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

1. What was Johnny really irritated about?
  - A. Sleeping too much
  - B. Doing Chores
  - C. Eating broccoli
  - D. Missing the Meteor Shower
  
2. What reason does Johnny NOT give for staying up late?
  - A. The best TV shows are on
  - B. Animals come out
  - C. He can do his chores
  - D. He can use his telescope
  
3. What thing does father NOT say could be done during the day?
  - A. playing sports
  - B. doing chores
  - C. going fishing
  - D. taking naps
  
4. Why is sleep important, according to father?
  - A. You need it to be alert and healthy.
  - B. You need it to waste a few boring hours at night.
  - C. You need it to earn money.
  - D. You need it to feel great.
  
5. What agreement does Johnny come to with his father?
  - A. He can stay up later on some nights.
  - B. He doesn't have to go to bed.
  - C. He can stay up later if it's not a school night.
  - D. He can't ever stay up later.

# I Never Want to Sleep – Answer Key

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